

Conor Peilly/Bullet

Najibullah Barezki was a Seacobeck employee for almost seven years.

Seacobeck Employee Dies

By LINDSAY BEATON
News Editor

Najibullah Barezki, an employee of Seacobeck dining hall at Mary Washington College, died on Jan. 22 when he fell down the stairs at the home he shared with his sister and her family in Dumfries.

He was 45 and worked as a beverage attendant at Seacobeck since Aug. 1997.

"My mom works every morning, and she happened to take off that morning," said Mariam Rahim, Barezki's niece. "She found my uncle."

Mary Rahim, Barezki's sister, said she was shocked to find him lying on the stairs.

"He was gone right away," she said. "I gave him CPR. The police said I did everything I could. We pray for an easy death, but it's not easy for people to go like that."

Barezki was at home recuperating from a heart attack he had at work on Jan. 12.

Sandy Williams, an action station cook at Seacobeck, was working when Barezki began to have the heart attack.

"I was standing at my station when [Barezki] came up to me and said he was in pain," she said. "I asked him what kind of pain, and he said 'very bad pain.' I told [Konstantin Dunaev, assistant director at Seacobeck] to call 911."

Dunaev said he ran into the kitchen and called the campus emergency number.

"I said I was at Seacobeck and I needed an ambulance for one of my

employees," he said.

Once the ambulance came and took Barezki to Mary Washington Hospital, Dunaev said everyone relaxed a little. It wasn't until they heard Barezki's heart stopped at the ambulance pulled up to the hospital that they began to worry again.

"None of us realized [Barezki] was having a heart attack," Dunaev said.

Barezki remained in the hospital for several days while recovering from his heart attack.

"The next day I went to visit him," Dunaev said. "He did seem better and the nurse said he was better. He had his color back."

Dunaev said Barezki was released from the hospital on Thursday or Friday of that week and he continued to call Barezki's sister to see how he was doing. He said when he called the day before Barezki's death, everything was perfectly fine.

"[Mary Rahim] said everything was fine," Dunaev said. "He had an appointment scheduled for Feb. 10 and they would tell him when he could come back to work then."

Rahim said Barezki was ready to go back to work.

"He was very happy with his job," she said. "He loved the people there."

Barezki's co-workers got him a giant get well card and a fruit basket and had plans to deliver it to his home on Jan. 22. Dunaev said he called Rahim at 11 a.m. to confirm her address and find out when

► See NAJI, page 2

Clubs Receive Less Money Than Expected

By BETSY CRUMB
News Editor

For the first time, earlier this year clubs were given the opportunity to acquire more money beyond their allotted budget from the finance committee by requesting rollover, revenue clubs generated themselves last year.

While some clubs were satisfied, some said it was not enough.

Nineteen clubs requested rollover from the finance committee and all organizations received a

certain percent of what they applied for, according to finance committee chairperson Mandy Cox.

"The money given out in rollover this year was all the money that remained in the rollover account after covering club overspending," Cox said in an email statement. "Each club got the same percent cut from their total request."

According to Cox, a number of clubs spent more money last year than was allocated to them in their budget. To compensate for this, rather than holding each club responsible for the amount they overspent, the finance committee

chose to cover the expenses with the existing revenue, thus decreasing the amount clubs would be able to receive back.

"The finance committee feels this is the fairest way to satisfy last school year's overspending," Cox said.

Sophomore Andi Keefer, vice chair of the finance committee, said clubs must spend all of their money by a certain date and if they don't, the money will then be returned to the finance committee.

"We're still working the bugs out of the system for this first year," Keefer said. "Due to it being the first year we've done rollover, there were

some flaws we'll need to fix. But Mandy [Cox] worked really hard to make it work out as best as it could."

Clubs had mixed reactions to the rollover they were given.

"We didn't get as much as we asked for in rollover, but instead of concentrating on how much we missed out on, the club has focused on how much we received," said sophomore Ryan Beaulieu, treasurer of the Mary Washington College ecology club. "We have a really big trip

► See ROLLOVER, page 2

Robbery On High Street

By LAURA HENDERSON
Staff Writer

Senior Anne Litz said she was looking forward to snuggling into the queen-sized mahogany sleigh bed in her room at her off-campus house when she got back to Fredericksburg after winter break.

But the night before she left on a trip to Australia, her roommate called and said their house on the corner of High Street and William Street was broken into.

"My bed, four of our TVs, four of our DVD players, surround sound speakers and a stereo all got stolen," Litz said. "At first I thought it was a joke. I mean, who steals a bed? The detective said that he'd never heard of anyone stealing a bed and kept asking me if I had any psycho ex-boyfriends or enemies who might have done it, which I hope I don't."

Although the most valuable and difficult to steal belongings in the house were stolen, there were no signs of forced

entry to the house, according to the police report.

The report said the bedroom doors were all locked and the burglars forced entry to

gain access. There were also truck tire marks surrounding the house and up to the

► See ROBBERY, page 2



Peter Kelley/Bullet

This house on High Street, inhabited by five seniors, was robbed.

Benz Stolen

By ADINA YOUNG
Staff Writer

On Dec. 10, Junior Christina Clapp drove her 1986 midnight blue Mercedes Benz 300 E Class into the parking lot behind the Woodward Campus Center, turned off her car but left the keys in and ran inside to check her mail.

"I returned to the parking lot no more than 30 to 45 seconds later because it was raining that day and I had my tennis shoes on," Clapp said. "And when I ran back up the stairs to the parking lot, my car was gone."

According to Clapp, her first instinct was to run to the campus police station to report the car stolen.

"I told them that I was not sure if one of my friends borrowed the car," she said. "But I reported it stolen anyway. They asked me if anyone was around [or near] the parking lot."

Clapp said she saw two ladies standing and talking in the parking lot when she returned from the campus center.

After she realized this, she said she and an officer went back to the parking lot to investigate further into the alleged

► See BENZ, page 2

5 Day Forecast



TODAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 36
Low: 29



FRIDAY
Rain
High: 42
Low: 31



SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy/Windy
High: 38
Low: 21



SUNDAY
Cloudy
High: 36
Low: 14



MONDAY
Sunny
High: 38
Low: 20

Verbatim...

"Their goal is to lose weight instead of being healthy. It's not about weight. You can be skinny and still be unhealthy."

-Megan O'Neil, page 5



Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
Staff Writer



Jan. 19-At 3:30 p.m., a 20-year-old female residential student who works part time in Seacobeck Dining Hall reported to police she was being stalked by a fellow employee. Campus police said she reported a full-time male employee who is not enrolled in the college was harassing her at work. After several complaints to supervisors at Seacobeck failed to bring about any results, the female reported the incident to campus police. Supervisors at Seacobeck have since taken care of the problem.

Jan. 21-Between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a 19-year-old female student reported her purse stolen from the Eagles Nest, according to campus police. The student ate at the Nest and proceeded back to her room when she realized she left her purse. When she returned, her purse was gone. The purse is black and contains the student's wallet and ATM card, valued at \$50. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 23-Between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m., a 20-year-old male residential student of Marshall Hall reported an X-Box game console, a controller and five games totaled at \$295 stolen from his room, campus police said. The student left the door to his room unlocked at the time of the robbery. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 24-At 1:49 a.m., it was reported to campus police that a 20-year-old male resident of Westmoreland Hall was intoxicated and ill in his room. Police arrived to the scene and had the student transported to Mary Washington Hospital by the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad. The student was referred to administration.

Jan. 25-At 3:28 a.m., a 21-year-old commuter student struck a parked car on Sunken Road, according to campus police. The student left the scene of the accident and proceeded to the Sunken Road parking lot. Fredericksburg Police responded to the accident on Sunken Road while campus police attempted to locate the driver. When campus police arrived at the parking lot, the student exited the car and removed the keys from the ignition. He was found to be intoxicated and was turned over to the

Fredericksburg Police Department. Junior Andrew Oko was charged with driving under the influence and for leaving the scene of an accident.

Jan. 25-At 11:51 p.m., a 20-year-old male resident of Willard Hall reported a Playstation console, controller, Playstation games and a Toshiba DVD player stolen from his unlocked room, according to campus police. The items are valued at \$354. There are no suspects or witnesses. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 26-At 12:47 p.m., an 18-year-old male resident of Russell Hall reported to campus police that between 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 and 3:35 p.m. on Jan. 25 his Toshiba Laptop and power-cord were stolen from his unlocked room. The student was home for the weekend and his roommate thought he had taken the laptop with him. The grand larceny theft was totaled at \$1,400. The serial number of the laptop was entered into the National Crime Database and the case is under investigation.

Feb. 1-At 2:13 a.m. it was reported to campus police that there was a sick student in Russell Hall. An 18-year-old male was found intoxicated and ill, campus police said. The Fredericksburg Rescue Squad responded and took the student to Mary Washington Hospital. The student was referred to administration.

Feb. 1-At 6:07 a.m., an off-duty campus police officer heard screams coming from Ball Circle while walking to his car. When officers arrived in Ball Circle they found a male student, stumbling, yelling and highly intoxicated. When told to stop, he ran. When chased and stopped by police, he became combative, injuring two officers. When he was finally restrained, the police transported the student to Mary Washington Hospital where the student again became combative campus police said. He eventually calmed down and admitted to ingesting alcohol, illegal prescription narcotics, psychedelic mushrooms and marijuana. Michael Dove, 20, was charged with being drunk in public and obstruction of officers while performing duties. A narcotics possession charge is pending and the student was referred to administration.

Employee's Death Mourned

◀ NAJI, page 1

would be a good time to deliver the card and fruit.

"The person who answered the phone was not [Barekzi's] sister," Dunaev said. "I asked how [Barekzi] was doing and the answer was, 'He's dead.' I said, 'Naji? The guy who works for us?' and the person on the phone said 'Yes, he died ten minutes ago.' I was just shocked."

Barekzi's co-workers were notified of his death as the lunch shift began at Seacobeck.

Dunaev said everyone was shocked and upset. He said he kept in touch with Barekzi's family to see if there was anything Seacobeck could do and to find out about the funeral, because so many employees wanted to attend.

The funeral was held on Saturday, Jan. 24.

"The funeral was so different, because it was a Muslim funeral," said Angelina Chan, a supervisor at Seacobeck. "The only time we were able to say goodbye was when the men were gone. I said, 'Goodbye Naji. We'll miss you.'"

Williams said the women were asked to leave the area each time the men began to pray.

"We were allowed to be there while they were covering the casket, but had to leave during the prayers," she said.

Rahim said she was overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to say goodbye.

"Lots of people came to the funeral," she said. "Everybody was calling for him, even voices I haven't heard for 30 years."

Barekzi's niece said Barekzi's death has special significance attached, because he died during Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Around this time, the gates to Heaven are open," she said. "He's going to Heaven. It's a big advantage."

Mariam Rahim also said Barekzi's funeral held great significance.

"On the day of his burial it was snowy and cloudy," she said. "But right when they lowered him into the grave, the sun came out. When the sun comes out when someone is buried, it means they were a good person."

Mary Rahim said her brother was just that.

"He loved to be nice to people," she said. "He liked for other people to be happy. He helped me with everything. Everything. He smiled at everybody. He was nice to everybody."

Those who worked with him said they have no doubts about the kind of person Barekzi was.

"He was a very nice person," said Elizabeth Jennings, an action station cook at Seacobeck. "Anything I asked him to do, he'd do. He was there to help everybody."

Dunaev said Barekzi's work ethic was just as strong as his personality.

"He was the first person I met when I started working at Seacobeck," he said. "He trained me. He didn't speak very good English, but he

showed me what to do. Then I became his boss, and he was one of those people you could always count on. He was a very hard and diligent worker."

Patricia Moore, Seacobeck cashier, said Barekzi was like that when she first met him seven years ago.

"He was always here, always working," she said. "You could always count on him to be here."

When a memorial went up for Barekzi in the Washington Diner at Seacobeck dining hall, many students said they were surprised to see who died.

"I just knew he was one heck of a guy, but I never learned his name," said sophomore Jeffrey Longo.

Freshman Ryan Knocke said he thinks Barekzi was probably overlooked.

"Most people don't take notice of cafeteria workers, but I do," he said. "[Barekzi] always worked hard, was always polite and made sure glasses, plates and food were in stock. Some people might have been embarrassed to clean up after dirty college students, but I think he had a lot of pride in what he did because he was working and making a living."

Senior and Seacobeck Supervisor James Ohlsson said Barekzi was always willing to talk.

"I don't think a lot of people took time to listen to him," Ohlsson said. "But if you did, he had a lot of really nice things to say. He was always concerned about my brother, my love life and even my car when it got banged up. He would always greet me with 'Hey buddy.'"

Chan said he always asked how she was doing, as well.

"He knew if you didn't look your usual self," she said. "He would ask me, 'Are you all right?'"

Some students said Barekzi was more than just a friendly face.

"[Barekzi] was sort of inspirational to me, even though I barely knew him," Longo said. "He was always putting out his best when he was on the job, which inspired me to put out my best. I would have loved to get to know him better, and really be able to express my appreciation for what he gave to the [college] community."

Everyone in Barekzi's life said things won't be the same without him.

"I'm so glad I took off [the day he died]," Rahim said. "I cried for over 24 hours. I miss him so much. He was like my baby. My heart is crying, but he is in a nice place. He's in peace."

Williams said work definitely will not be the same without Barekzi.

"It's hard to go into the Diner and work because I'm so used to seeing him," Williams said. "I'm going to miss him a lot."

Chan said she will miss Barekzi as well, but knows he's in a better place.

"He's an angel," she said.

Burglary Scares Students

◀ ROBBERY, page 1

front door. The robbers overlooked all five of the housemates' computers.

"The creepiest part is the stuff they left behind," Litz said. "They left my blankets folded, my bed's mattress pad, my stuffed animals and my pillows neatly on the futon and the picture frames that were on the TV were directly below where they used to be on the stand."

Senior Lisa Cavanaugh, who also lives in the house, said the robbers obviously took their time.

"Because of the things that they took, like a giant bed, and the meticulous way they cleaned up after themselves, it seems like they must have had a lot of time in our house," she said.

Although the case is currently under investigation by the Fredericksburg Police Department, police said there are no real leads.

Litz, McMahon, Cavanaugh and their housemates seniors Adrienne Trombley and Kate Lacey rent from Lee Rowe Properties, a prominent rental company used frequently by many students living off campus.

The housemates said they were all at their respective homes when the break-in occurred, so

it is difficult to discern the exact date the robbery took place. They said it happened between Dec. 18 and Dec. 27.

"We heard that sometimes stolen stuff turns up on Ebay, so I've been checking the Web site for my bed," Litz said.

Although none of McMahon's belongings were stolen, she said she is still very concerned about the safety of her home.

"Honestly, I don't really feel good about living here," McMahon said. "The idea that someone got in here, through a locked door and windows and still took our stuff from our house freaks me out completely."

The house was also broken into the summer of 2002, when a TV, VCR, computer, desk and phone were all stolen. According to police, the perpetrators of that crime were never found.

The estimated cost of all the goods stolen is \$4,050.

Litz said although her bed and TV were replaced, the stereo, other TVs and DVD players were not.

"It's kind of hard for me to want to spend money on anything else for this house when we graduate in three months and it's been broken into twice," McMahon said.

5:30 a.m. the next day, the Mercedes Benz was found in the parking lot of a Fas Mart just south of Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County.

"There were still things in there like shampoo and a toy gun," Clapp said. "There were fuses blown out that caused the window motors to be blown out as well as the windshield wipers."

Clapp said the total damage done to her vehicle equaled \$2,000.

The insurance company will not pay for the damages, so the money is coming out of her own pockets.

"My insurance company recommended not getting theft insurance on the car because it was so old and no one would really want to steal it," Clapp said. "So actually, I have been paying for the damage along with the help of my grandmother."

The police processed the leather in the car to attempt to find fingerprints but none were found.

"We're still looking for leads," said campus Police Chief J. C. Snipes. "Though right now there are no suspects or witnesses to who was actually driving the stolen car."

The case is still under investigation.

Revenue Revealed

◀ ROLLOVER, page 1

that we're planning right now, and we have to rush a few fundraisers to keep it afloat, but the entire club is excited to simply get the ecology club's name around campus and go to the mountains for a great weekend."

According to budget and rollover documents from the office of business and finance, the ecology club requested \$518 in rollover and was given \$222.

Senior Ernest Thompson, finance committee member and treasurer of the Black Student's Association, which according to budget and rollover documents received \$90 of the \$125 requested, agreed.

"We were pleased to get anything, really," he said. "Every little bit helps."

Some clubs have already found a use for the excess money given to them.

"The rollover money we received was used for the ski trip we just took," said junior Emily Taylor, treasurer of the trek club, which according to budget and rollover documents received \$344 and had requested \$465.

According to budget and rollover documents, the Terrapins, the college's synchronized swimming team, asked for \$1,525 and received \$1,129.

"We are very grateful for all the money we get from the school and we don't think we deserve more than we received," freshman treasurer Mandie Corraive said.

However, not all clubs were satisfied.

"We have been in a budget crunch all year, much in the same way that a lot of other clubs have been as well," said senior Evan Steinberg, treasurer of the Associate of Residence Halls.

Steinberg said the club has done its best to not dwell on their lack of funds and utilize the money given to them.

Sophomore Kerry Vautrot, treasurer of the preservation club agreed.

"We recognize that this is the first year for clubs to receive the revenue they generated the previous year and that there are bound to be a few flaws in the system, but the rollover procedure that was presented to the clubs originally has not been followed," Vautrot said.

Vautrot, in an email statement, explained the incorrect procedure by citing the 2003-2004 Finance Committee Handbook and Constitution. She said it contradicts itself because in Section II, Article IV of the Mary Washington College Finance Committee By-Laws, it states, "If a club has self-generated

revenue remaining in its account at the end of the spring semester, it may be carried over to the fall semester." However, clubs did not receive their rollover until the beginning of the spring 2004 semester.

This is the first time the finance committee has offered rollover. According to Rick Pearce, associate vice president of business and finance, the option of rollover was offered to the finance committee a few years ago after a request was made from student activities director Tami Goodstein. However, finance committee declined the offer last year.

Pearce said in past years, rollover funds were put back in the college and used "to work on parking lots, repave roads, that type of thing."

According to Pearce, student clubs are the only facilities on campus to receive rollover.

"Most other places [on campus] don't generate their own revenue," Pearce said. "Like Giant Productions, for example, generates revenue from ticket sales, so our thinking was that [clubs] ought to be able to use the revenue that they generate."

According to Goodstein, clubs fill out an application to submit a request for the amount of rollover they would like to receive.

Goodstein said the money requested had to be for a specific purpose and could not be part of the money the college had originally budgeted to the clubs. Then the finance committee reviewed the request, looking at how much revenue was left that students had not spent from last year and they allocated it to each club. From there, the lump sum of requested rollover is sent to the Office of Business and Finance.

According to Pearce, the Office of Business and Finance then makes sure the amount requested is the same as the amount of revenue left from the past year.

"My office essentially doesn't look at each club," Pearce said. "All we look at is the bottom line. If the bottom line is what was left in the accounts at the end of the year, then that's ok."

Pearce said the office then sends the fulfilled request back to the finance committee, who are responsible for divvying the money as they see fit.

"Personally, I hope that in the future those people giving out the money realize that AR1 is one of the largest organizations on campus, affecting every residential student," Steinberg said. "With the money we had this year, we basically only had about \$1 to spend on every student living on campus. To me, that's a travesty."

Theft Causes Damages

◀ BENZ, page 1

robbery.

"The two women were still there when I returned with the officer," Clapp said. "[They] heard a loud noise that came from the tires [screaming] and turned around and saw the car speed off."

According to the witnesses, there were tire marks left on the parking lot as a result of the suspect speeding off in the car.

The police analyzed the tire marks and discovered they were those of the Mercedes belonging to Clapp.

"[Campus police] called the Fredericksburg Police Department as well as the Virginia State Police Department telling them to be on the lookout for my car," Clapp said.

Clapp said her car had a lot of sentimental value.

"My great-grandfather gave the car to my great-grandmother and after she passed away and he was on his death bed it was one of his wishes that I get the car," Clapp said.

According to campus police, at approximately

Viewpoints

Editorial

Boob Tube

Millions of people saw it. And now, as expected, millions of people are talking about it.

We are talking about Janet Jackson's breast. From young children to senior citizens, to the often over-hormonal male football fans, everyone saw Janet's most likely silicone-enhanced "bazonga" during the Superbowl halftime show.

Due to the "mix-up" between Justin Timberlake and Jackson, the NFL said they will never again contract MTV for a halftime show.

But wait, wasn't it just a few years ago when Lil' Kim wore a star shell on the nipple of her left bosom to the MTV awards?

Let's talk about Christina Aguilera and her "Dirty" video. Is it just us, or do you all feel "dirty" after watching Christina hump everything in sight?

How about Britney "I'm-a-virgin" Spears and her latest "Toxic" video, in which she wears only diamonds glued to her ever-plasticized body.

And has anyone forgotten about J. Lo's green Versace dress that left little to the imagination?

Last, but not least, let's not overlook the ever-popular series of "Girls Gone Wild" videos, where women expose their breasts for mere thrill and a free tank top.

Somehow America has overlooked all this nudity, until Sunday, Jan. 31, when Janet Jackson, clothed en toto for the majority of the show, revealed her pierced nipple.

What is the difference between seeing Jackson's nipple as opposed to J. Lo's ass, Christina's kama sutra moves, Britney's fake body and Lil' Kim's "fashion"?

Could it be because the Superbowl was broadcast on national television and not cable? Well, perhaps that's a valid argument, but hasn't almost every single one of those women (plus a multitude of others) been on the cover of magazines like People, which are plastered on newsstands in "wholesome" public places such as grocery stores, all throughout America?

Maybe it's because Timberlake, a male, callously ripped the material off of Jackson, somehow making an exposed nipple into an erotic fantasy held by probably every male in the stadium who was previously forced to resort to the Patriot's and Panther's cheerleaders, who, sadly, were wearing all six inches of their clothes.

While nudity can be beautiful, it is beautiful in a sense that the human body is a structure of art, not an exposition that can be titillating because it is humping chairs like Christina.

Whatever the reason, America has decided to finally recognize the absurd amount of sexuality plaguing our press every day, and we are glad.



The New Hampshire Democratic Primary, in which John Kerry defeated Howard Dean. According to Gwen Nixon, you probably don't care—but you should.

Cartoon by Jen Hammond

Students Don't Care

MWC Senior Encourages Students To Get Involved And Start Caring About What's Going On In The World

By GWEN NIXON
Guest Columnist

Q: How many Mary Washington students does it take to change the world?

A: The whole student body, there's nothing better to do on the weekends.

After reading *The Bulletin's* "call for intellectual arms" last week, I initially assumed my usual senioritis stance on such things and told myself someone else would surely write in with his or her deep thoughts. Imagine my surprise this past Thursday at yet another edition full of Mary Washington name-change woes and snow day grumblings.

So while this letter may not contain any actual substance, I hope that by using it to criticize the entire student body, perhaps at least one person will defend him or herself with a real letter. With, like, facts and stuff.

But is the buzz on the streets true? Do the majority of students at Mary Washington College not know or care about what goes on in the world? I would certainly hope not. But nevertheless, here I am with a Carrie Bradshaw-esque question: Has Mary Washington College become deactivated?

Mary Washington students should not only care about the news, but they should make the effort to learn about it, form an educated opinion based on what they learn, and then get out there and do something about it.

Unfortunately, an assertion I've heard from several of my passive peers, Democrats, Republicans, and other affiliations alike, is that they want to care about the news, but they just don't know what they are supposed to care about, exactly.

There's just not enough space in this newspaper to go into how ridiculous that statement is, so let's offer a little assistance instead.

International and national news reports. Where in the world would we find them?

Well, Jon Stewart is great (if you disagree,

kindly avert your erroneous and ignorant gaze from my obviously more intelligent thoughts) but where else can you get your news?

How many of you have picked up a paper lately and actually read it? (Present reading excluded, though not for its lack of newsworthiness.) I'm not talking about the Sports section or the comics, but news. Events. World affairs. Political happenings. For 35 cents you can get your very own Washington Post. Give it a try. Don't let those big words scare you off!

Or is it that you just don't have time for reading? While that certainly is depressing, I wouldn't characterize it a personal failing just yet.

What about television then? That's right, folks. There is more to that glorious image-projecting box than merely the crazy antics of Seth Cohen and Ryan Atwood. There are actually shows entirely dedicated to news. I know, it is insanity. But it's true.

I also know that you all lead busy lives, and may not be able to get to a TV when the news is on. Plus some of the aforementioned news programs are on at the same time as "The Simpsons" and "Newlyweds." The audacity.

But don't give up yet. Got cable? Get this: There are channels out there that bring us news all night long. It's a rush, ain't it? So I ask you to give that whole "current events" thing a try, whatever your medium.

But perhaps this isn't our problem. What's worse than not knowing what's going on in the world? Maybe it's that some of us do know what's happening around us, but can't be bothered to care.

It seems to me that we haven't simply stopped listening or learning about events beyond Mary

Washington College's gates, but rather, we've just stopped feeling any passion for the real world. (And I'm not talking about the true story of seven strangers picked to live in a house.)

I know, I know. You're a Bio major, you're on the [fill in the blank] team, you work two jobs, you're a chronic binge drinker...

We all have a lot of commitments that consume time (among other things) and may not be able to devote several hours a day to any particular cause.

But I urge you all to please take an interest in what's going on around us, no matter how little time you have to offer.

Think the war on Iraq was/is justified? Okay, why? Think not? Once again—back your opinion up with educated facts.

Pro-life? Pro-choice? Like school vouchers? Hate your school tuition? What about health care? There has to be something that stirs your blood.

Every once in a while I'll come across someone expressing their political opinions in a social setting, and that's great. I'd even venture super great! The question I'd like to pose, however, is *what are you going to do about it?*

I'm pleased as punch when someone has an enthusiastic view about the issue of the day, but I am always left wondering why the student is just sitting around gabbing with me about it. I'm not your local congressperson, your senator, or your president. (Quick! Who is your district's state representative?)

We have the nation's capital at our doorstep and it seems that some of us don't want to take advantage of it.

So get out there and do something. Sign petitions, donate time, give money, march on Washington. March down campus walk.

Or, here's a zany idea, write a letter to your school newspaper refuting the claims that obnoxious self-righteous girl made last week.

And by the way, you Virginians, get out there and vote in the democratic primary on

Here's a zany idea: write a letter to your school newspaper refuting the claims that obnoxious, self-righteous girl made last week.

► See APATHY, page 11

the Bulletin
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Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to The Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacoast Hall or sent to our email address at bullet@mwc.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff.



Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
Staff Writer



Jan. 19-At 3:30 p.m., a 20-year-old female residential student who works part time in Seacoast Dining Hall reported to police she was being stalked by a fellow employee. Campus police said she reported a full-time male employee who is not enrolled in the college was harassing her at work. After several complaints to supervisors at Seacoast failed to bring about any results, the female reported the incident to campus police. Supervisors at Seacoast have since taken care of the problem.

Jan. 21-Between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a 19-year-old female student reported her purse stolen from the Eagles Nest, according to campus police. The student ate at the Nest and proceeded back to her room when she realized she left her purse. When she returned, her purse was gone. The purse is black and contains the student's wallet and ATM card, valued at \$50. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 23-Between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m., a 20-year-old male residential student of Marshall Hall reported an X-Box game console, a controller and five games totaled at \$295 stolen from his room, campus police said. The student left the door to his room unlocked at the time of the robbery. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 24-At 1:49 a.m., it was reported to campus police that a 20-year-old male resident of Westmoreland Hall was intoxicated and ill in his room. Police arrived to the scene and had the student transported to Mary Washington Hospital by the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad. The student was referred to administration.

Jan. 25-At 3:28 a.m., a 21-year-old commuter student struck a parked car on Sunken Road, according to campus police. The student left the scene of the accident and proceeded to the Sunken Road parking lot. Fredericksburg Police responded to the accident on Sunken Road while campus police attempted to locate the driver. When campus police arrived at the parking lot, the student exited the car and removed the keys from the ignition. He was found to be intoxicated and was turned over to the

Fredericksburg Police Department. Junior Andrew Oko was charged with driving under the influence and for leaving the scene of an accident.

Jan. 25-At 11:51 p.m., a 20-year-old male resident of Willard Hall reported a Playstation console, controller, Playstation games and a Toshiba DVD player stolen from his unlocked room, according to campus police. The items are valued at \$354. There are no suspects or witnesses. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 26-At 12:47 p.m., an 18-year-old male resident of Russell Hall reported to campus police that between 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 and 3:35 p.m. on Jan. 25 his Toshiba Laptop and power-cord were stolen from his unlocked room. The student was home for the weekend and his roommate thought he had taken the laptop with him. The grand larceny theft was totaled at \$1,400. The serial number of the laptop was entered into the National Crime Database and the case is under investigation.

Feb. 1-At 2:13 a.m. it was reported to campus police that there was a sick student in Russell Hall. An 18-year-old male was found intoxicated and ill, campus police said. The Fredericksburg Rescue Squad responded and took the student to Mary Washington Hospital. The student was referred to administration.

Feb. 1-At 6:07 a.m., an off-duty campus police officer heard screams coming from Ball circle while walking to his car. When officers arrived in Ball Circle they found a male student, stumbling, yelling and highly intoxicated. When told to stop, he ran. When chased and stopped by officers, he became combative, injuring two officers. When he was finally restrained, the police transported the student to Mary Washington Hospital where the student again became combative campus police said. He eventually calmed down and admitted to ingesting alcohol, illegal prescription narcotics, psychedelic mushrooms and marijuana. Michael Dove, 20, was charged with being drunk in public and obstruction of officers while performing duties. A narcotics possession charge is pending and the student was referred to administration.

Employee's Death Mourned

◀ NAJL, page 1

would be a good time to deliver the card and fruit.

"The person who answered the phone was not [Barekzi's] sister," Dunaev said. "I asked how [Barekzi] was doing and the answer was, 'He's dead.' I said, 'Najl? The guy who works for us?' and the person on the phone said 'Yes, he died ten minutes ago.' I was just shocked."

Barekzi's co-workers were notified of his death as the lunch shift began at Seacoast. Dunaev said everyone was shocked and upset. He said he kept in touch with Barekzi's family to see if there was anything Seacoast could do and to find out about the funeral, because so many employees wanted to attend.

The funeral was held on Saturday, Jan. 24. "The funeral was so different, because it was a Muslim funeral," said Angelina Chan, a supervisor at Seacoast. "The only time we were able to say goodbye was when the men were gone. I said, 'Goodbye Najl. We'll miss you.'"

Williams said the women were asked to leave the area each time the men began to pray.

"We were allowed to be there while they were covering the casket, but had to leave during the prayers," she said.

Rahim said she was overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to say goodbye.

"Lots of people came to the funeral," she said. "Everybody was calling for him, even voices I haven't heard for 30 years."

Barekzi's niece said Barekzi's death has special significance attached, because he died during Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Around this time, the gates to Heaven are open," she said. "He's going to Heaven. It's a big advantage."

Mariam Rahim also said Barekzi's funeral held great significance.

"On the day of his burial it was snowy and cloudy," she said. "But right when they lowered him into the grave, the sun came out. When the sun comes out when someone is buried, it means they were a good person."

Mary Rahim said her brother was just that.

"He loved to be nice to people," she said. "He liked for other people to be happy. He helped me with everything. Everything. He smiled at everybody. He was nice to everybody."

Those who worked with him said they have no doubts about the kind of person Barekzi was.

"He was a very nice person," said Elizabeth Jennings, an action station cook at Seacoast. "Anything I asked him to do, he'd do. He was there to help everybody."

Dunaev said Barekzi's work ethic was just as strong as his personality.

"He was the first person I met when I started working at Seacoast," he said. "He trained me. He didn't speak very good English, but he

showed me what to do. Then I became his boss, and he was one of those people you could always count on. He was a very hard and diligent worker."

Patricia Moore, Seacoast cashier, said Barekzi was like that when she first met him seven years ago.

"He was always here, always working," she said. "You could always count on him to be here."

When a memorial went up for Barekzi in the Washington Diner at Seacoast dining hall, many students said they were surprised to see who died.

"I just knew he was one heck of a guy, but I never learned his name," said sophomore Jeffrey Longo.

Freshman Ryan Knoke said he thinks Barekzi was probably overlooked.

"Most people don't take notice of cafeteria workers, but I do," he said. "[Barekzi] always worked hard, was always polite and made sure glasses, plates and food were in stock. Some people might have been embarrassed to clean up after dirty college students, but I think he had a lot of pride in what he did because he was working and making a living."

Senior and Seacoast Supervisor James Ohlsson said Barekzi was always willing to talk.

"I don't think a lot of people took time to listen to him," Ohlsson said. "But if you did, he had a lot of really nice things to say. He was always concerned about my brother, my love life and even my car when it got hanged up. He would always greet me with 'Hey buddy.'"

Chan said he always asked how she was doing, as well.

"He knew if you didn't look your usual self," she said. "He would ask me, 'Are you all right?'"

Some students said Barekzi was more than just a friendly face.

"[Barekzi] was sort of inspirational to me, even though I barely knew him," Longo said. "He was always putting off his best when he was on the job, which inspired me to put out my best. I would have loved to get to know him better, and really be able to express my appreciation for what he gave to the [college] community."

Everyone in Barekzi's life said things won't be the same without him.

"I'm so glad I took off [the day he died]," Rahim said. "I cried for over 24 hours. I miss him so much. He was like my baby. My heart is crying, but he is in a nice place. He's in peace."

Williams said work definitely will not be the same without Barekzi.

"It's hard to go into the Diner and work because I'm so used to seeing him," Williams said. "I'm going to miss him a lot."

Chan said she will miss Barekzi as well, but knows he's in a better place.

"He's an angel," she said.

Burglary Scares Students

◀ ROBBERY, page 1

front door. The robbers overlooked all five of the housemates' computers.

"The creepiest part is the stuff they left behind," Litz said. "They left my blankets folded, my bed's mattress pad, my stuffed animals and my pillows neatly on the futon and the picture frames that were on the TV were directly below where they used to be on the stand."

Senior Lisa Cavanaugh, who also lives in the house, said the robbers obviously took their time.

"Because of the things that they took, like a giant bed, and the meticulous way they cleaned up after themselves, it seems like they must have had a lot of time in our house," she said.

Although the case is currently under investigation by the Fredericksburg Police Department, police said there are no real leads.

Litz, McMahon, Cavanaugh and their housemates seniors Adrienne Trombley and Kate Lacey rent from Lee Rowe Properties, a prominent rental company used frequently by many students living off campus.

The housemates said they were all at their respective homes when the break-in occurred, so

it is difficult to discern the exact date the robbery took place. They said it happened between Dec. 18 and Dec. 22.

"We heard that sometimes stolen stuff turns up on eBay, so I've been checking the Web site for my bed," Litz said.

Although none of McMahon's belongings were stolen, she said she is still very concerned about the safety of her home.

"Honestly, I don't really feel good about living here," McMahon said. "The idea that someone got in here, through a locked door and windows and still took our stuff from our house freaks me out completely."

The house was also broken into the summer of 2002, when a TV, VCR, computer, desk and phone were all stolen. According to police, the perpetrators of that crime were never found.

The estimated cost of all the goods stolen is \$4,050.

Litz said although her bed and TV were replaced, the stereo, other TVs and DVD players were not.

"It's kind of hard for me to want to spend money on anything else for this house when we graduate in three months and it's been broken into twice," McMahon said.

Theft Causes Damages

◀ BENZ, page 1

robbery.

"The two women were still there when I returned with the officer," Clapp said. "[They] heard a loud noise that came from the tires [screaming] and turned around and saw the car speed off."

According to the witnesses, there were tire marks left on the parking lot as a result of the suspect speeding off in the car.

The police analyzed the tire marks and discovered they were those of the Mercedes belonging to Clapp.

"[Campus police] called the Fredericksburg Police Department as well as the Virginia State Police Department telling them to be on the lookout for my car," Clapp said.

Clapp said her car had a lot of sentimental value.

"My great-grandfather gave the car to my great-grandmother and after she passed away and he was on his death bed it was one of his wishes that I get the car," Clapp said.

According to campus police, at approximately

5:30 a.m. the next day, the Mercedes Benz was found in the parking lot of a Fas Mart just south of Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County.

"There were still things in there like shampoo and a toy gun," Clapp said. "There were fuses blown out that caused the window motors to be blown out as well as the windshield wipers."

Clapp said the total damage done to her vehicle equaled \$2,000.

The insurance company will not pay for the damages, so the money is coming out of her own pockets.

"My insurance company recommended not getting theft insurance on the car because it was so old and no one would really want to steal it," Clapp said. "So actually, I have been paying for the damage along with the help of my grandmother."

The police processed the leather in the car to attempt to find fingerprints but none were found.

"We're still looking for leads," said campus Police Chief J. C. Snipes. "Though right now there are no suspects or witnesses to who was actually driving the stolen car."

The case is still under investigation.

Revenue Revealed

◀ ROLLOVER, page 1

that we're planning right now, and we have to rush into a few fundraisers to keep it afloat, but the entire club is excited to simply get the ecology club's name around campus and go to the mountains for a great weekend."

According to budget and rollover documents from the office of business and finance, the ecology club requested \$518 in rollover and was given \$222.

Senior Ernest Thompson, finance committee member and treasurer of the Black Student's Association, which according to budget and rollover documents received \$90 of the \$125 requested, agreed.

"We were pleased to get anything, really," he said. "Every little bit helps."

Some clubs have already found a use for the excess money given to them.

"The rollover money we received was used for the ski trip we just took," said junior Emily Taylor, treasurer of the trek club, which according to budget and rollover documents received \$344 and had requested \$465.

According to budget and rollover documents, the Terrapins, the college's synchronized swimming team, asked for \$1,525 and received \$1,129.

"We are very grateful for all the money we get from the school and we don't think we deserve more than we received," freshman treasurer Mandie Corriveau said.

However, not all clubs were satisfied.

"We have been in a budget crunch all year, much in the same way that a lot of other clubs have been as well," said senior Evan Steinberg, treasurer of the Associate of Residence Halls.

Steinberg said the club has done its best to not dwell on their lack of funds and utilize the money given to them.

Sophomore Kerry Vautrot, treasurer of the preservation club agreed.

"We recognize that this is the first year for clubs to receive the revenue they generated the previous year and that there are bound to be a few flaws in the system, but the rollover procedure that was presented to the clubs originally has not been followed," Vautrot said.

Vautrot, in an email statement, explained the incorrect procedure by citing the 2003-2004 Finance Committee Handbook and Constitution. She said it contradicts itself because in Section II, Article IV of the Mary Washington College Finance Committee By-Laws, it states, "If a club has self-generated

revenue remaining in its account at the end of the spring semester, it may be carried over to the fall semester." However, clubs did not receive their rollover until the beginning of the spring 2004 semester.

This is the first time the finance committee has offered rollover. According to Rick Pearce, associate vice president of business and finance, the option of rollover was offered to the finance committee a few years ago after a request was made from student activities director Tami Goodstein. However, finance committee declined the offer last year.

Pearce said in past years, rollover funds were put back in the college and used "to work on parking lots, repave roads, that type of thing."

According to Pearce, student clubs are the only facilities on campus to receive rollover.

"Most other places [on campus] don't generate their own revenue," Pearce said. "Like Giant Productions, for example, generates revenue from ticket sales, so our thinking was that [clubs] ought to be able to use the revenue that they generate."

According to Goodstein, clubs fill out an application to submit a request for the amount of rollover they would like to receive.

Goodstein said the money requested had to be for a specific purpose and could not be part of the money the college had originally budgeted to the clubs. Then the finance committee reviewed the request, looking at how much revenue was left that students had not spent from last year and they allocated it to each club. From there, the lump sum of requested rollover is sent to the Office of Business and Finance.

According to Pearce, the Office of Business and Finance then makes sure the amount requested is the same as the amount of revenue left from the past year.

"My office essentially doesn't look at each club," Pearce said. "All we look at is the bottom line. If the bottom line is what was left in the accounts at the end of the year, then that's ok."

Pearce said the office then sends the fulfilled request back to the finance committee, who are responsible for divvying the money as they see fit.

"Personally, I hope that in the future those people giving out the money realize that ARH is one of the largest organizations on campus, affecting every residential student," Steinberg said. "With the money we had this year, we basically only had about \$1 to spend on every student living on campus. To me, that's a travesty."

Viewpoints

Editorial

Boob Tube

Millions of people saw it. And now, as expected, millions of people are talking about it.

We are talking about Janet Jackson's breast. From young children to senior citizens, to the often over-hormonal male football fans, everyone saw Janet's most likely silicone-enhanced "bazonga" during the Superbowl halftime show.

Due to the "mix-up" between Justin Timberlake and Jackson, the NFL said they will never again contract MTV for a halftime show.

But wait, wasn't it just a few years ago when Lil' Kim wore a star shell on the nipple of her left bosom to the MTV awards?

Let's talk about Christina Aguilera and her "Dirty" video. Is it just us, or do you all feel "dirty" after watching Christina hump everything in sight?

How about Britney "I'm-a-virgin" Spears and her latest "Toxic" video, in which she wears only diamonds glued to her ever-plasticized body.

And has anyone forgotten about J. Lo's green Versace dress that left little to the imagination?

Last, but not least, let's not overlook the ever-popular series of "Girls Gone Wild" videos, where women expose their breasts for mere thrill and a free tank top.

Somewhat America has overlooked all this nudity, until Sunday, Jan. 31, when Janet Jackson, clothed en toto for the majority of the show, revealed her pierced nipple.

What is the difference between seeing Jackson's nipple as opposed to J. Lo's ass, Christina's kama sutra moves, Britney's fake body and Lil' Kim's "fashion"?

Could it be because the Superbowl was broadcast on national television and not cable? Well, perhaps that's a valid argument, but hasn't almost every single one of those women (plus a multitude of others) been on the cover of magazines like People, which are plastered on newsstands in "wholesome" public places such as grocery stores, all throughout America?

Maybe it's because Timberlake, a male, caustically ripped the material off of Jackson, somehow making an exposed nipple into an erotic fantasy held by probably every male in the stadium who was previously forced to resort to the Patriot's and Panther's cheerleaders, who, sadly, were wearing all six inches of their clothes.

While nudity can be beautiful, it is beautiful in a sense that the human body is a structure of art, not an exposition that can be titillating because it is humping chairs like Christina.

Whatever the reason, America has decided to finally recognize the absurd amount of sexuality plaguing our press every day, and we are glad.



The New Hampshire Democratic Primary, in which John Kerry defeated Howard Dean. According to Gwen Nixon, you probably don't care—but you should.

Cartoon by Jen Hammond

Students Don't Care

MWC Senior Encourages Students To Get Involved And Start Caring About What's Going On In The World

By GWEN NIXON
Guest Columnist

Q: How many Mary Washington students does it take to change the world?

A: The whole student body, there's nothing better to do on the weekends.

After reading *The Bulletin's* "call for intellectual arms" last week, I initially assumed my usual senioritis stance on such things and told myself someone else would surely write in with his or her deep thoughts. Imagine my surprise this past Thursday at yet another edition full of Mary Washington name-change woes and snow day grumblings.

So while this letter may not contain any actual substance, I hope that by using it to criticize the entire student body, perhaps at least one person will defend him or herself with a real letter. With, like, facts and stuff.

But is the buzz on the streets true? Do the majority of students at Mary Washington College not know or care about what goes on in the world? I would certainly hope not. But nevertheless, here I am with a Carrie Bradshaw-esque question: Has Mary Washington College become deactivated?

Mary Washington students should not only care about the news, but they should make the effort to learn about it, form an educated opinion based on what they learn, and then get out there and do something about it.

Unfortunately, an assertion I've heard from several of my passive peers, Democrats, Republicans, and other affiliations alike, is that they want to care about the news, but they just don't know what they are supposed to care about, exactly.

There's just not enough space in this newspaper to go into how ridiculous that statement is, so let's offer a little assistance instead.

International and national news reports. Where in the world would we find them?

Well, Jon Stewart is great (if you disagree,

kindly avert your erroneous and ignorant gaze from my obviously more intelligent thoughts) but where else can you get your news?

How many of you have picked up a paper lately and actually read it? (Present reading excluded, though not for its lack of newsworthiness.) I'm not talking about the Sports section or the comics, but news. Events. World affairs. Political happenings. For 35 cents you can get your very own Washington Post. Give it a try. Don't let those big words scare you off!

Or is it that you just don't have time for reading? While that certainly is depressing, I wouldn't characterize it as a personal failing just yet.

What about television then? That's right, folks. There is more to that glorious image-projecting box than merely the crazy antics of Seth Cohen and Ryan Atwood. There are actually shows entirely dedicated to news. I know, it is insanity. But it's true.

I also know that you all lead busy lives, and may not be able to get to a TV when the news is on. Plus some of the aforementioned news programs are on at the same time as "The Simpsons" and "Newlyweds." The audacity.

But don't give up yet. Got cable? Get this: There are channels out there that bring us news all night long. It's a rush, ain't it? So I ask you to give that whole "current events" thing a try, whatever your medium.

But perhaps this isn't our problem. What's worse than not knowing what's going on in the world? Maybe it's that some of us do know what's happening around us, but can't be bothered to care.

It seems to me that we haven't simply stopped listening or learning about events beyond Mary

Washington College's gates, but rather, we've just stopped feeling any passion for the real world. (And I'm not talking about the true story of seven strangers picked to live in a house.)

I know, I know. You're a Bio major, you're on the [fill in the blank] team, you work two jobs, you're a chronic binge drinker...

We all have a lot of commitments that consume time (among other things) and may not be able to devote several hours a day to any particular cause.

But I urge you all to please take an interest in what's going on around us, no matter how little time you have to offer.

Think the war on Iraq was/is justified? Okay, why? Think not? Once again—back your opinion up with educated facts.

Pro-life? Pro-choice? Like school vouchers? Hate your school tuition? What about health care? There has to be something that stirs your blood.

Every once in a while I'll come across someone expressing their political opinions in a social setting, and that's great. I'd even venture super great! The question I'd like to pose, however, is *what are you going to do about it?*

I'm pleased as punch when someone has an enthusiastic view about the issue of the day, but I am always left wondering why the student is just sitting around gabbing with me about it. I'm not your local congress-person, your senator, or your president. (Quick! Who is your district's state representative?)

We have the nation's capital at our doorstep and it seems that some of us don't want to take advantage of it.

So get out there and do something. Sign petitions, donate time, give money, march on Washington. March down campus walk.

Or, here's a zany idea, write a letter to your school newspaper refuting the claims that obnoxious self-righteous girl made last week.

And by the way, you Virginians, get out there and vote in the democratic primary on

► See APATHY, page 11

But is the buzz on the streets true? Do the majority of students at Mary Washington College not know or care about what's going on in the world? I would certainly hope not.

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Features

Students Erect Racy Sculpture

By Julia Hoffman
Staff Writer

Last week's snowfall led to the first snow day for this year's freshman class, which subsequently propelled the erection of a giant snow penis on Jefferson Square.

"Only on a snow day can a bunch of ambitious guys build a nine-foot organ out of snow," said Jeff King, a freshman who joined in the construction efforts.

According to Ray Moore, one of the few freshmen who stuck around for the three-hour sculpting, the snow penis measured approximately eight or nine feet tall. Moore also estimated that about 25 people helped at some point in the construction.

According to several of the builders, the idea originated from freshman Tom McDermott, a Russell Hall resident.

"The project came to him in a vision, and on the night of MWC's first snow, he approached me and then a few others and proposed we put it in motion," said freshman Dan Clendenin.

McDermott said he's not really sure how he came up with the idea, but when it popped into his head, he thought it would be a humorous display.

"I told just about everyone I knew to come and help construct a giant penis we could all be proud of in front of Jefferson," McDermott said.

The snow sculpture is similar to many others found on the Web site collegehumor.com, according to Moore. College Humor is a joke Web site containing pictures, videos, games and columns directed toward college-age students. The site also has a pictures link that contains many sexually-related snow sculptures similar to the one built last week in front of Jefferson Hall.

Sexually-explicit snow sculptures seem to be a pastime of many college students.

In December 2003, four students at Virginia Tech built an 11-foot snow

penis.

"We were walking by and saw a big ball of snow," said Andrew Smith, a freshman at Virginia Tech. "Somebody made the comment that we just needed one more to have a set. So we made the second ball, and then it only made sense to add the rest."

According to Smith, the shaft of the snow penis was about five feet around, three feet wide, and took about an hour and a half to complete.

Smith added that the testicles were 3.5 feet wide and held the weight of two people.

However, Tech's final product didn't stand as long as the one outside of Jefferson Hall.

"As the penis was being built, a crowd gathered," Smith said. "Right after we took pictures, a drunk kid tackled it, so it was only up for maybe 10 minutes after completion."

The fun and games in the snow at Mary Washington College turned out to take longer than the students planned, but no matter what the cost, they were determined to finish their sculpture by the end of the night.

"There were many people who started to make the snow penis, however they grew tired of the hard work after a short period of time," McDermott said.

Clendenin added that about half of the students who began the project became "nay-sayers" by the end. When all was said and done, about six students were left.

According to McDermott and Clendenin, many people left because the dry nature of the snow made for several failed attempts.

"It was very difficult to make due to the poor 'packing' snow," McDermott said.

He said they used water and garbage pails to pack the snow.

Clendenin added, "It was much more difficult than we thought it would be to make."

Clendenin also said that the snow



Courtesy Tom McDermott

► See SEXY SNOW, page 5 Freshmen Tom McDermott and Dan Clendenin stand proudly with their snow creation.

Low-Carb Diets Hit Campus

By Adele Chapin
Staff Writer

When sophomore Lisa Kenney sets her tray down at a booth in Seacobeck, she isn't yet done assembling her meal. Before she can begin eating, hamburger buns must be separated from the meat. Cheese and tomato sauce must be carefully scraped off pizza slices.

This is a recipe that rings true for followers of low carbohydrate diets, and a familiar routine for Kenney, who has been on the program since January 2003.

Though Kenney said she is not on the traditional Atkins diet, she still tries to limit carbohydrates from her meals.

"It really works," she said. "You get used to it. But it's hard to stay on it at school because all Seaco serves is carbs."

Mary Washington College dieters like Kenney are only some of the many Americans interested in nutrition and weight loss. According to the National Institute of Health's Web site, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight. One third of that figure falls into the obese category, which

is determined by having a body mass index of over 25 (Body mass is calculated using weight and height).

The same study states that obesity has steadily increased over the years among all ages, all racial and ethnic groups and both genders. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute lists heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer as possible risks of obesity.

As the waistlines of Americans expand, so does the market for the weight-loss industry. It's difficult to turn the pages of a magazine without seeing an ad for some sort of weight-loss drug featuring dubious before-and-after shots that often appear to be of completely different people.

Talk shows feature inspirational weight-loss stories of people who can now fit into one leg of their old jeans. In order to achieve these types of results, people turn to new diets such as the Atkins and South Beach diets, which both require dieters to limit carbohydrates such as breads, pastas, cookies and crackers.

What about the nutrition habits of college students in particular? Freshman Holly Hanks acknowledged the difficulty of maintaining a healthy diet while at school.

"It's easier to get crappy food," she said. "There's not much variety of diet on campus."

Junior Megan O'Neil found a way to eat healthy on campus.

"I think it's easier to have a salad, because everything is laid out for you," she said. "On the other hand, some of the options aren't healthy. There's a lot of variety and temptations, but you could eat healthy foods if you really wanted to."

A study by Tufts University in 2002 shows that 66 percent of freshmen don't consume the recommended five servings of fruit and vegetables a day and that 60 percent eat too much saturated fat in their diet.

Interestingly, the study of 1,800 students asserts that most students don't gain the "freshman 15." Instead, college men gained an average of 5.5 pounds, while women gained an average of 4.5 pounds during their freshman year.

Although low carbohydrate diets may be en vogue, Peter Labrecque, general manager of Dining Services, said carbohydrates are the most popular items in Seacobeck.

"Macaroni and cheese, pizza, high carbs are a main staple of the program," he said.

According to Labrecque, Seacobeck's offerings are based on three-cycle menus that rotate on a weekly basis. Each cycle has four hundred recipes, and recipes are based around themes present in each room.

"The program is designed to maximize variety and for students to mix and match," Labrecque said. "Students are able to go to all

► See DIETS, page 5

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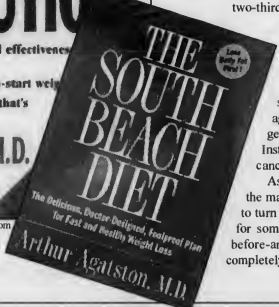
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Robert C. Atkins, M.D.

Read by Eric Conger

Courtesy Amazon.com

Diet books have made their way into the hands of some college students.



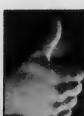
Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down...



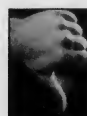
To the Patriots winning the Super Bowl.



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To Survivor All Stars starting this week.



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Dan Coe/Bullet

Students crowd into a dorm room to watch the Super Bowl last Sunday.

Partying Super Bowl Style

By Katy Nicholson
Staff Writer

Beer cans snap open. A big bowl of pretzels sits on the coffee table. Five hands reach for the last buffalo wing, and cheers resonate throughout the building as the winning touchdown is scored.

Images like these are often associated with the Super Bowl, but Mary Washington students spent their Sunday evening celebrating the game in a variety of ways.

Eagles Nest Assistant Director Kennedy Lawson said that although the Nest would not be doing anything special for Super Bowl XXXVIII, it would have its hands full accommodating the more than 60 pizza orders that Pete's Pizza Arena received as of Saturday night. The unusually large amount of pizza orders made it clear that this was not going to be just a typical Sunday night for many students.

"A bunch of friends and I ordered pizza and laughed at the commercials," said junior Emily Tetelman of her Super Bowl experience.

Many students opted to attend small parties with their families and friends.

Junior Mike Mallon planned to spend his night "hanging out at home, drinking beer and watching the game."

Freshmen Young Choi and Ben Doggett said they would be going to a small party, and sophomore Kate Hallberg went to a friend's house. Sophomore Heather Martinez, a resident of Virginia Hall, had plans to attend a party in her building. Other students planned to drop by more than one of the many small private parties that were held both on and off campus.

Some larger gatherings were planned for the residence halls. Senior Paul Michanczyk,

a Mercer Hall resident assistant, planned a program for his residents, complete with pizza, chips and soda, in their hall's common room.

Angela Dumiano, a freshman resident of Mason Hall, planned to attend a building program. Sophomore Amy Jessee went to a building party in Alvey Hall. Jessee added that she just sat there for commercials.

Freshman Mike Baggot had plans to watch the game at the Catholic Student Association Center. He and some other students were going to catch up on the game after attending the 7 p.m. Mass.

Freshman Amanda Goldman, however, said that she would not be watching the game at all. Like Amanda, a surprising number of students did not have any Super Bowl plans.

Some needed to study, and had no time to watch the game. Others had no interest whatsoever in football, and still others had no interest in watching the New England Patriots play against the Carolina Panthers.

Freshman Samantha Blackburn was unhappy that the Philadelphia Eagles had not made it to the Super Bowl.

"I think the Patriots are going to win, so I don't even want to watch," she said, "I'm going to watch 'Lord of the Rings' or something."

Whether it was for the love of the game or interest in the halftime show and commercials, most students planned to celebrate the Super Bowl one way or another.

The student body showed a broad range of interest in the game, but most students seemed to view Super Bowl Sunday as the weekend's last hurrah and a fun break from the normal Sunday evening studying routine.



Dan Coe/Bullet

Getting Frisky in the Snow

◀ SEXY SNOW, page 4

sculpture was so high that he had to stand on top of a pick-up truck to put the last bucket of snow on the top.

The men chalk up anatomically correct efforts to freshman Shawn Hough.

"The great detail in the head is complements of Shawn Hough and mounting the head was none other than 'Big' Dan Clendenin," McDermott said.

Clendenin said that Hough had to mold the "head" using an ice scraper. Twigs even stuck out at appropriate spots at the base of the sculpture to represent pubic hairs.

The sculptors were so proud of their work that they took pictures and posted them online through a Webshots community. There is an entire online photo album dedicated to snapshots of the students with the finished project.

After all their hard work, Moore, McDermott and Clendenin aren't sure what happened to the snow penis sculpture.

"We never found out how it fell down," Moore said. "No one complained about it, but several people came out to take pictures of it and many MWC workers drove by and commented on how much they liked it."

The men have some assumptions about the sculpture's demise.

"We assume that someone must've found it offensive and reported it to the school," Clendenin said. "It is certainly a shame that such talent went to waste."

Sophomore Frank Puleo, a resident assistant in Russell Hall, had no problem with the undertaking.

"I was pretty amazed by what the guys did, and I think it was truly something to be proud of," Puleo said. "I know the college might not have felt the same way but I think it's great thing for these guys 'cause it just adds a story to the great college experience."

However, not everyone was as excited about the project as Puleo and the students involved in the sculpting.

Freshman and Jefferson resident Allysa Miller was not impressed by the display.

"I only heard about it, but never saw it," she said. "My opinion is that it was very immature and inappropriate."

Nevertheless, to some students' dismay and the disappointment of others, the almost nine-foot snow sculpture of the male reproductive organ no longer stands.

McDermott expressed great sentiment for it.

"The snow penis was knocked over," he said. "We don't know by whom, but a small part of all us died as soon as that glorious shaft hit the ground."



Courtesy Marissa DeAngeli



Courtesy CollegeHumor.com

Left: Virginia Tech students built their own anatomically-correct organ in December. Right: A cowboy version at another locale.

To Diet or Not to Diet?

◀ DIETS, page 4

three rooms before they make their final determination. They gather ingredients to make their own creations."

Both the Atkins diet and the South Beach diet build on the idea that reducing carbohydrates can promote weight loss. According to the Atkins Web site, carbohydrates and fat act as fuel for the body's energy needs, and carbohydrates are the first to be metabolized.

If carbohydrates are restricted, the body will burn fat as its main energy source. The Atkins and the South Beach diets suggest eliminating carbohydrates as much as possible for a short period of time and then gradually phasing them back into the diet in a limited amount.

This is in direct conflict with the Food Pyramid endorsed by USDA, which suggests six to 11 servings of carbohydrates.

Freshman Myra Williams referred to this point.

"I think it's kind of a hoax, because carbs are on the bottom of the pyramid, you're flipping it upside down," she said. "It's not going to be good for people in the long run."

O'Neil also had a negative view of fad diets. "Their goal is to lose weight instead of being healthy," she said. "It's not about weight. You can be skinny and still be unhealthy."

Conflicting information about dieting and nutrition may complicate decisions about healthy eating, but that won't dissuade would-be dieters. "A lot of girls are [on diets]," sophomore Kim Yeamans said. "It may not be something they stick to all the time, but fad diets come out and they try them."

Hanks said that dieting is not a big deal among her friends.

"Nobody I know is really that concerned about it," she said. "Everybody is more stressed about classes."

Junior Sam Kaye agreed that dieting is not an issue.

"Boys don't care," he said.

Freshman Craig Radoci had a similar opinion.

"I think that's true, most guys don't care what they eat," he said. "They don't worry about dieting."

Radoci said he does try to eat a balanced diet and uses the Food Pyramid as a guide.

Nancy Yates, associate director of the Mary Washington College Health Center, acknowledged that students occasionally come to the Health Center for advice on diets and nutrition.

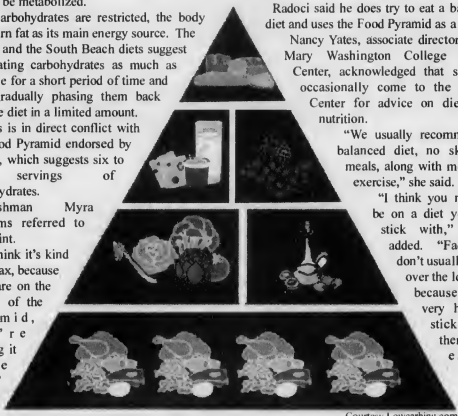
"We usually recommend a balanced diet, no skipping meals, along with moderate exercise," she said.

"I think you need to be on a diet you can stick with," Yates added. "Fad diets don't usually work over the long run because it is very hard to stick with them. An eating lifestyle change is the best way to lose weight."

Yates advises students to ask themselves questions about what they're eating, such as: How much fat and what kind? How many calories? How many calories does your body need for all the types and amount of activity in which you participate?

In addition to all these factors, perhaps the most important weight loss tool is motivation. This was the case for sophomore Lindsay Bowden, who lost one hundred pounds between her sophomore and junior years in high school.

"I just watched how much sugar I ate, I drank a lot of water and I walked," she said.



Courtesy Lowcarb.com

A special Atkins diet version of the food pyramid.

lifestyle change is the

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Sports



Pats: Twice As Nice

New England wins second Super Bowl in three years

By Dave Buschenfeldt
Staff Writer

In a scene reminiscent of the final seconds of Super Bowl XXXVI, New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri proved once again that he is Mr. Clutch. With eight seconds remaining in the game, Vinatieri nailed a 41-yard field goal to give the Patriots a 32-29 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

After missing two early field goal attempts, the second of which was blocked by Panthers defensive tackle Shane Burton, head coach Bill Belichick did not hesitate to call on Vinatieri with the game on the line. It was the fifteenth straight win for New England, and their second Super Bowl title in three years.

"I was sure he'd make it," said Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel in an interview published in the Boston Globe. "It's just unbelievable what [Vinatieri] is done. He is the best clutch kicker ever, in the history of the league."

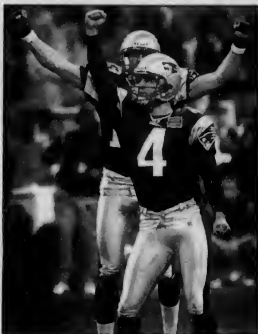


Photo courtesy boston.com

Adam Vinatieri watches his 41-yard field goal split the uprights.

Most experts predicted that Super Bowl XXXVIII would be a low-scoring defensive struggle, and at the beginning of the game it looked as if it would be just that. The teams combined for zero points in the first 27 minutes of the game, the longest scoreless streak in Super Bowl history.

The Patriots defense played extremely well at the beginning of the game. Ted Washington and the defensive line gave running back Stephen Davis nowhere to run and held the Panthers' biggest offensive weapon to just 49 yards rushing for the game.

The first big break for either team came when Vrabel blindsided Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme, knocking the ball out of his hands. New England defensive end Richard Seymour pounced on the fumble and the Patriots had the ball at Carolina's 20-yard line. After quarterback Tom Brady scrambled 12 yards for a first down, his longest run of the season, he found Deion Branch in the back of the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

New England's touchdown seemed to remind the Panthers that they were playing in the Super Bowl. Jake Delhomme proceeded to lead Carolina on a 95-yard drive, the second longest in Super Bowl history, that ended with a 39-yard

touchdown reception by wide receiver Steve Smith.

The Patriots answered right back. Brady hit Deion Branch with a 52-yard bomb that set up another New England score, this time to David Givens.

After Panthers tight end Kris Mangum returned Vinatieri's squib kickoff to the 47-yard line, Stephen Davis broke his only big run of the day, a 21-yard gain that set up a 50-yard field goal by John Kasay. The teams went to the locker room at halftime with the Patriots leading 14-10.

After a scoreless third quarter, both offenses came to life. Antowain Smith, who had 83 yards rushing on the day, found his way into the end zone from two yards out to give the Patriots a 21-10 lead with just under 15 minutes to play in the game.

Just as New England began to pull away, Panthers back-up running back DeShaun Foster broke free down the sideline for a 33-yard touchdown run to make the score 21-16. Carolina coach John Fox was then faced with a tough decision. He elected to play for two points, and a chance to bring the team back within a field goal of the lead. The Panthers could not convert, leaving the Patriots with a five-point cushion.

On the ensuing possession, the Patriots reached the Carolina 9-yard line and were well within Vinatieri's range, but Brady made a critical mistake on third-and-goal. Instead of playing it safe and settling for the field goal, he forced a pass to the end zone that was picked off

by Carolina cornerback Reggie Howard.

The Panthers wasted no time in taking advantage of Brady's miscue. On the second play of the drive, Delhomme hit Muhsin Muhammad in stride for an 85-yard touchdown, the longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history. Suddenly it was the Panthers in front, 22-21. Fox again elected to go for two, but Delhomme misfired and Carolina held a one-point lead with just under seven minutes to play.

This was the first time that the Patriots had trailed in a game since November 23 when the Houston Texans held a 20-13 lead in the fourth quarter. Unfazed, Brady calmly led his team down the field and found Mike Vrabel in the end zone with 2:51 remaining. On the two-point attempt, Kevin Faulk caught the Panthers defense off guard, taking the direct snap and crossing the goal line for a 29-22 Patriots lead.

Carolina refused to quit. With both of New England's starting safeties injured and on the sidelines, Delhomme had no trouble finding open receivers. He connected with Ricky Proehl in the end zone, tying the game at 29 with 1:08 on the clock.

Kasay's ensuing kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Patriots the ball on their own 40-yard line. Brady led New England 37 yards on six plays and set the stage for Vinatieri's heroics.

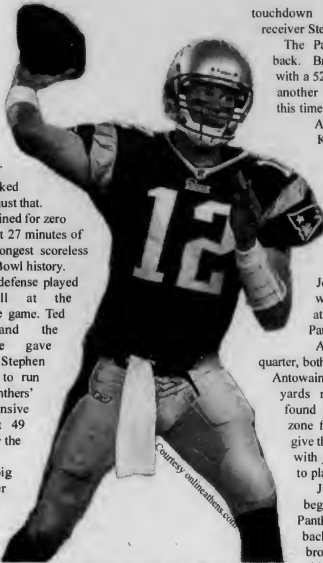
After the game there was nothing but praise for Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady.

"In this day in the NFL, who else would you want throwing the ball?" said Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss in an interview published on ESPN.com. "I'll take Tom Brady 10 times out of 10."

"You can never say enough about Tom Brady," added teammate Troy Brown. "He wins games. What more can you ask for?"

Brady finished the game with 354 passing yards and three touchdowns. His 32 completions are a Super Bowl record.

This is the second time that Brady has been named Super Bowl MVP, the first time coming two years ago in Super Bowl XXXVI. This puts him in elite company as one of only four quarterbacks to have won the award twice. Brady joins Bart Starr, Terry Bradshaw, and Joe Montana on this list.



Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady.



Photo courtesy camgirlgalleries.com



Photo courtesy nerddirecthouse.com

People who tuned in to the "Lingerie Bowl" on Pay-Per-View must feel cheated. The striptease that was the Super Bowl Halftime Show featured appearances by Janet Jackson's breast and Mark Roberts' derriere.



The Bold and the "Boob"tiful

Upcoming Events...

Feb. 7 - Men's Basketball Vs. St. Mary's College of MD 2 p.m.

Feb. 7 - Women's Basketball Vs. St. Mary's College of MD 4 p.m.

Feb. 7 - Indoor Track and Field at George Mason University

Complete schedules can be found at: <http://www.mwc.edu/hepe>

Lady Eagles Extinguish Flames

Debbie Bruen scores 14 points to lead all scorers

By Dave Buschenfeldt
Staff Writer

A fan wandering into Goolrick gymnasium with 4:04 left in the game between Mary Washington and Roanoke Bible College on Monday night would never have known that the game was so one-sided. During a timeout, the Roanoke bench was singing and dancing while the song "Shout" was being played from the sideline.

As it turned out, the Flames proved to be no match for the Eagle women and Mary Washington won the game easily, 73-33. According to Mary Washington coach Deena Applebury, Roanoke's players had never played organized basketball prior to

halftime with the Eagles leading 39-12.

The second half featured more of the same. Because the Eagles had their opponents outmatched, the reserves saw more court time than normal circumstances allow. In many cases, the reserves played more minutes than the starters.

"It feels good to let everybody in the game and get solid minutes," Applebury said.

Every player for the Eagles scored at least two points in the game and four reached double digits.

Freshman Debbie Bruen led all players with 14 points and nine rebounds. Junior Laura Hanks scored 13 points for the Eagles. Olinger had 12, and sophomore Lindsey Forbush dropped in 10.

"[The Roanoke players] were a really fun group," Applebury said. "This type of game helped us work on things that are hard to practice in tougher games. But it's going to



Peter Kelley/Bullet

Sophomore Lindsey Forbush takes a shot.



Sophomore Amanda Bumham passes to senior teammate Kelly Kinahan.

be difficult to switch gears from this game to our next game on Wednesday night against Marymount."

The transition back to hard-nosed CAC basketball was not as difficult as Applebury had feared. The Eagles defeated Marymount University 59-51 on Wednesday night. Forbush led the way for Mary Washington (9-10, 5-4 CAC) with 18 points.

The Eagles' will face St. Mary's College of Maryland at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Goolrick gymnasium.

Staff Writer Victor Mondino contributed to this report.

Wednesday's Score:

Mary Washington - 59

Marymount - 51

college and the game's outcome was never in doubt.

The Eagles played tenacious defense all night, forcing the Flames into 29 turnovers and holding them to 35 percent shooting for the game. Sophomore Kirsten Studer led the defensive effort with four steals and a block and sophomore Jenn Olinger had three thefts of her own. The Eagles also won the battle on the boards, out-rebounding Roanoke by 30.

Mary Washington used a 12-0 run in the first half to break the game open and they never looked back. The teams went into

The Bottom Line

Jon Hurd: 7-9

The Mary Washington Men's basketball team set a new team record for three-pointers in a game on Wednesday night. The Eagles sank 17 of 34 attempts in their 92-56 victory over Marymount University. The previous record was 15.

Mike Lee: 6-10

Erik Rodriguez: 3-7

A.J. Fitzgerald: 1-4

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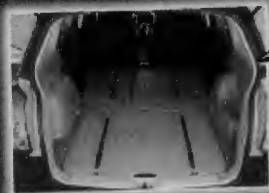


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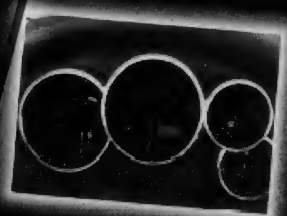
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Scene

"Great Lives" Series Brings Together Many Disciplines

By Becca Barnabi
Staff Writer

Mary Washington College students, faculty, and community members: history is being brought to you on selected Tuesdays and Thursdays until April, courtesy of the Department of History and American Studies.

In Monroe Hall, room 104, at 7:30 p.m. on selected Tuesdays and Thursdays, college students who are enrolled in History 200X, with a course title of "Great Lives," meet, and learn about an historical figure. These lectures are free to the public.

The course is conducted by Distinguished Professors of History and American Studies William Crawley and Carter Hudgins. The class meets until 8:45 p.m. on these special nights and consists of one speaker informing the students about a particular man or woman who contributed to world history.

Last Thursday, Professor of Physics Dr. Bulent Atalay acquainted students and community members with painter and "unpublished scientist" Leonardo da Vinci.

The large audience contained people of various ages. The amount of interested people were so many that at least a few dozen had to be turned away. Crawley said, "if you want to come, get here early."

Atalay's lecture was presented in a humorous and informative way. He introduced the audience to da Vinci and made them familiar with him through stories and demonstrations.

Sophomore Kate Kelley was impressed by the amount of ideas da Vinci had before anyone else. Kelley left the lecture feeling overwhelmed by the amount of information she received, but having learned that da Vinci and his ideas were "profound for the time in which he lived."

Megan Parry, a junior and Art History major, had previously thought of da Vinci only as a painter. Atalay's lecture showed her the "mathematical point of view" of da Vinci. Parry said she only wishes that Atalay had focused more on da Vinci and his work.

Junior Tricia Coyle was also surprised by da Vinci. "I didn't really know he was mathematical," she said.

She had anticipated that Atalay's lecture would be focused on the art da Vinci created. Coyle found the lecture to be a "different approach to presenting someone's life."

Atalay's expertise on Leonardo da Vinci began in high school after attending a lecture about dynamic symmetry. The speaker of that lecture combined backgrounds in engineering and mathematics with an interest in art.

"I had a passion for art and had a passion for mathematics. And in time, I would develop a passion for physics," Atalay said.

Atalay found himself in the field of physics by accident after his college application was misread. His goal had been to be a physician, not a physicist. However, it took only a course or two in physics for him to change his goal.

Among the many contributions that da Vinci made to art, science, and mathematics, Atalay said his most important was "probably the handful of paintings he left behind."

Da Vinci has been given credit for only 12 paintings. However, some of those are not necessarily known to be his work.

According to Atalay, da Vinci "was inventing the future." He thought up many inventions long before they were actually invented, such as the bicycle, the submarine, and the parachute.

Atalay considers da Vinci to be a "transformative genius," along with three others who will be presented in the Great Lives series.

People like da Vinci, Shakespeare, Newton, and Beethoven stand out from other figures in the series "because in a field, there's no one that comes close to them."

Each of these individuals surpasses others in their field. They are the kind of people whom others look at and wonder where they came from.

Atalay will be giving another lecture about da Vinci in March at John Hopkins University. His book, "Math and the Mona Lisa," which is a culmination of his years of studying Leonardo da Vinci's art and scientific endeavors, is expected to be released in late February or March of 2004.

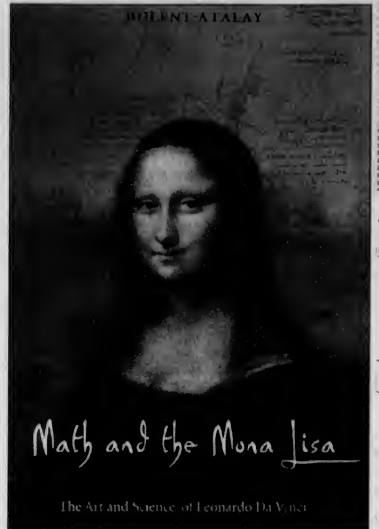
The lecture series has been more successful than anticipated, not only due to a high enrollment of students in the class, but also due to a large amount of interested community members. Other lectures thus far have been on Cleopatra, Charlemagne, and Elizabeth I. At tonight's lecture, English Department Chairperson William Kemp will speak about playwright William Shakespeare.

Among the 120 students enrolled in the class is freshman Philip Newton. According to Newton, the class was created in order "to accommodate those who couldn't get into a class," as a result of the high enrollment in history classes at Mary Washington College. Newton has not declared a major yet, but believes he will probably major in history.

Students in the course are required to write two papers and take two tests during the semester.

Marty Riedl, a special education teacher at Hugh Mercer Elementary School, attended Atalay's lecture about da Vinci as well as an earlier lecture about Charlemagne.

Riedl said she attended the lectures "to get a more intellectual perspective on the people being presented."



Courtesy: Bulent Atalay

The Cover of Bulent Atalay's book, *Math and the Mona Lisa*.

She found Fibonacci's number series an interesting part of Atalay's lecture, and "how it just keeps showing up in nature." She plans to attend future lectures in the Great Lives series.

The lecture series actually began to be offered periodically in the 1970's by the Department of History and American Studies. It was discontinued in the 1990's, but has now successfully returned.

Each series has been focused on various topics, such as explorers, presidential elections, heroes and villains in history.

Next Lecture:
Thursday, Feb. 5 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Kemp
Topic: Shakespeare
Moved to Great Hall
(due to overwhelming interest).

Up and Coming Musicians Faith & the Muse: An Interview

By Eliza Doenges
Staff Writer

Eliza Doenges (E.D.): How was Faith & the Muse born? William Faith (W.F.): I think I was the one who presented the idea to Monica; we were living in love at the time, so it seemed perfectly natural.

E.D.: Is your music mainly a collaboration or does the majority of the work fall more on one of you than the other?

W.F.: Certain songs may have more of one or the other. Others are straight down the middle. Each song is different, but virtually every one of them is a collaborative effort.

E.D.: How would you describe your own music? Monica Richards (M.R.): We are finding it harder and harder to really classify it as we've expanded our horizons through the years.

W.F.: We stay away from genre classification -- it's a little limiting. We do what we like to call dark cinematic rock, with elements of electronic, neo-classical and world music all folded into the whole picture. Each song is its own thing. Each album is a collection of different ideas, but somehow, it's all us.

E.D.: What are the messages you are trying to convey through Faith & the Muse?

M.R.: My themes always run around a mythological or historical sense of the current view of the world; the more

► See INTERVIEW, page 9

Faculty Members to Perform Chamber Recital Mon, Feb. 8

By Katherine Jensen
Staff Writer

Adjunct faculty members of the Mary Washington College music department will perform in the Faculty Chamber Recital on Monday, Feb. 8th. The free concert will take place at 4 p.m. in Pollard 304.

Performers include viola and violinist Edwin Johannott, violinist Rami Kanaan, cellist Christine Sweitzer, and pianist Lynne Mackey.

Chamber music is "music for small ensembles, whose members generally perform one to a part without a conductor," according to the Chamber Music America Web site.

To those involved in the music though, it is much more. Mel Marchese, a junior Mary Washington College Symphony Orchestra member, and a member of a blues duo that plays coastal venues, says that chamber music is "essentially a really intimate experience where you can see the individual styles of the performers and the unity brought in by the composer. It's a showcase for the talents of each musician and an opportunity to show off their skills."

Chamber music dates back to the Middle Ages and has slowly developed through the ages. It did not appear in public concerts until the 19th century, and was more common at private, personal gatherings.

In the classical era, Austrian composer Franz Josef Haydn gave chamber music a new style by establishing the string quartet as the example of a chamber music group, and by composing pieces with complex, intimate interplay between four instruments with equal footing. Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's work set the stage for their successor, Ludwig van Beethoven who greatly influenced the genre.

"No one person is in charge, and all contribute to form the concept and make musical decisions about the performance of the piece," Lynne Mackey said.

The group rehearsed twice during winter break, but finding

time to meet is difficult since all of the performers live out of town said Mackey, who lives in Staunton, Va. The other members live in Fairfax, Virginia.

This year's program consists of a variety of composers and instrumental combinations. The first half of the concert consists of "Apres un Reve," a short impressionist piece by French composer Gabriel Faure for cello and piano, the first movement of Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata for piano and violin, two Russian Romances of composer Michail Glinka, and a String Trio of Beethoven.

The second half of the performance consists entirely of a Trio of Antonin Dvorak for violin, cello and piano.

"One of the exciting benefits of playing chamber music, is the opportunity for collaboration between musicians," Mackey said. "Plus, the music is beautiful and very rewarding to play."

The members have been preparing and hope that their audience will enjoy the music they have been working on.

"The faculty has worked so hard on this, and they're a very talented group of musicians," said professor of music and department chair Patricia Norwood.

"These musicians are nationally known," Marchese said. "We have some of the most talented musicians in our music department."

Johannott is a former member of the National Symphony Orchestra and serves as concertmaster of the Mary Washington College-Community Symphony Orchestra. Kanaan, a native of Syria, graduated first place from the High Institute of Music and now teaches and performs in the Washington, D.C. area. Sweitzer who is currently an elementary strings instructor in Fairfax County Public Schools holds a master's degree in music performance from George Mason University.

Finally, Mackey who is on the tour roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts, holds degrees from both the Juillard School and the Eastman School of Music.

"Students should go because they can come watch [the performers] do best in an intimate atmosphere," Marchese said.



New CDs This Week

From the top left:
Five For Fighting "Battle For Everything"
Boyz II Men "Legacy: The Greatest Hits Collection"
Incubus "Crow Left of the Murder"
Kenny Chesney "When the Sun Goes Down"

Note: All CD release dates were Feb. 3, 2004
All CD cover art courtesy of allmusic.com

Top 3 Movies

Courtesy of imdb.com



1. You Got Served



2. Along Came Polly



3. The Butterfly Effect

What Was Your Favorite Super Bowl Commercial?

Photos and Interviews By Dane Hernandez/Bullet



"The Clydesdale and the donkey."

--Steve Parker,
Junior



"The one where the horse sets the lady's hair on fire by Budweiser."

--Aiyana Garcia,
Junior



"The referee gets screamed out by two coaches."

--Mike Kozicki,
Junior



"The donkey that wanted to be a Clydesdale."

--Mary Clark,
Senior



"The 7 Up million dollar dunk."

--Ethan Ripperger,
Senior

Music Stems From Celtic Mythology

4 INTERVIEW, page 8

things seem to change, it all reflects on the fact that things never change--this is not a darker age, just the turning of the wheel.
W.F.: These change with each song. Above all though, the main theme is to go after your passion in life -- be wild, strong, honest and true. Don't forget to fall in love...

E.D.: Where do you get your musical inspiration (art, literature, life, other music, etc.)?

M.R.: All of it! It's all intertwined so closely for us!

W.F.: From life and everything in it.

E.D.: How did the name Faith & the Muse originate?

W.F.: That was easy! My last name is "Faith," and I never needed to look any further than my lap for the very embodiment of a Muse. After we wrote our first song together ("Heal"), the name came to me right away.

E.D.: I have noticed that many of your songs are profoundly influenced by Celtic mythology. How did your interests in this aspect of life come about, how has it influenced you?

M.R.: I came from a Welsh background, so my interests and research all stem from Welsh-Celtic mythology. It has fulfilled a deep need that I think many Americans have--transplanted from other countries into this melting pot, we may feel a bit like orphans. Where did we come from and why? To actually have a feel for how my ancestors struggled under conquerors for 2,000 years, it gives my life a great deal more depth.

E.D.: I understand that you, Monica have done all the art on your album covers. How long have you been working with physical art and who have been your influences? Is there anything particular you try to represent with your art?

M.R.: I actually characterize myself as an artist in the sense that I work in all mediums, be it visual or musical. I began drawing before I could read or write; it's been my first love and something I am always doing. To be able to merge both for CD covers and illustrate my songs or poetry in drawings and paintings gives it all a fuller spectrum. I am currently enjoying the works of Waterhouse, but my all time favorite painter is Gustav Klimt. I'm very fond of the Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau movements, the rebirth of Classical and organic motifs. I think I express the same ideas; mythological themes that intertwine throughout our lives.

E.D.: I understand that both of you have worked on other musical projects. How have they compared to Faith & the Muse, as a whole? How have you evolved since then? What have you learned from these other projects? William, has your involvement in Sex Gang Children, Mephisto Walz, and Christian Death, influenced your music in Faith & the Muse in any way?

M.R.: How much have you changed since your "punk days?"

W.F.: The other projects simply led us here, to the place where we are now. I learned a great deal from each of these projects--far too many life lessons to even begin discussing here. Everything is an influence to one degree or another, but not all influence is musical.

M.R.: I'm still very much a punk, actually. I notice this when I sit with a table full of business people, I have a great feeling of freedom, strangeness, and that I really have nothing to do



Courtesy William Faith and Monica Richards

Sole members of Faith & the Muse, William Faith and Monica Richards.

with their world.

E.D.: Monica, I understand that in 1986 you suffered complete voice loss due to your severe vocal experimentation. Did this episode affect your views on your music career in any way?

M.R.: It made me realize that I had limitations, which is terrible when you're trying to expand yourself. I lost my voice due to shouting, growling, singing out of my range, doing anything to be different. Once my voice was actually gone and I had to write my thoughts for three months and really keep from speaking, I was ready to do whatever it took to get my voice back and in shape. I wasn't in any way thinking of music as a career that I would be on for many years, it simply was what I did, and I knew I'd be doing it again in an altered form.

E.D.: Monica, I know you are also a writer and a poet. I assume that much of your lyrics come from your poetry? What influences your poetry?

M.R.: My poetry is very personal, thoughts on myself as a woman in this world, as a human on a journey; it has captured me at very vulnerable times when only writing was the way to get feelings out. Our new album actually has more poetry in the lyrics than ever before.

E.D.: How do your albums differ from each other?

W.F.: The first four complete a cycle; they are all different, but are part of an era. "Brothers and Sisters", as it were. "The Burning Season" is a totally new and different album, for a totally new and different age.

E.D.: Are there any plans for future projects?

Any side projects?

W.F.: Future projects: we have a DVD in the works which will contain videos, live footage, interviews and more. Side projects: there's no time.

E.D.: Monica, I heard you recently have been acting in a short film titled "The Corridor" by H.P. Lovecraft. What does this project entail for you? How did you get involved in it? Have H.P. Lovecraft's works influenced you any in your music or in life in general?

M.R.: Lovecraft is a great love of ours, a definite influence though I don't know how I'd characterize it. A friend of mine wrote the script, and like all films, it hasn't even been edited yet. It was a learning experience for me. I enjoyed playing the creature aspect of my character, but the human parts were very hard. I don't think I would act again unless it is akin to my performance on stage - a bit over the top in character.

E.D.: Monica, how did your involvement in the Viva Death project come about?

M.R.: The producer Chad Blinnman called me over to the studio to sing on a track. I know the guys from Face to Face casually, so it was very interesting to me to sing for this - the project reminds me of "Killing Joke," a big love of mine.

E.D.: I saw a spread of pictures from your wedding in a magazine recently. Has being married, affected or altered your musical relationship in any way?

M.R.: It was inevitable, and it further bonds us. W.F.: It has only brought more passion into what we do.

E.D.: What advice can you give to aspiring musicians?

M.R.: It's actually a very involved way of life--everything we do goes back into the creative process. I think that either you will be an artist or you won't--my advice is to never give it up if it's what you want to do. There are no rules to life, don't let anyone tell you differently.

For more information on Faith & the Muse visit <http://www.mercyground.com/>

Unfortunately, there seems to be a little confusion about which one of them actually rose from the dead.



Blinn may have risen to the top of the billboard charts, but it's Jesus who rose from the dead. Join us this Sunday as we celebrate his resurrection and the gift of everlasting life.

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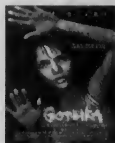
Canterbury of MWC, an Episcopal fellowship.
Trinity Episcopal Church
Sundays at 6:00 pm when school is in session.
Brydon Cooke, Sr. Warden bcooke@mwcc.edu
The Rev. Wendy K. Abrahamson, Chaplain
wabrahamson@vacoxxmail.com

Cheap Seats Cinema Presents:

Friday February 6th:

7pm Runaway Jury

10pm Gothika



Saturday February 7th

7pm Gothika

10pm Runaway Jury

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The Tenth Annual Cultural Awareness Series presents

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Wednesday, February 11, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Great Hall, Woodard Campus Center

Sponsored by the James Farmer Multicultural Center and the Campus Academic Resources Committee (CARC). Book signing immediately following the program. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at http://www.mwc.edu/ca_series or contact the James Farmer Multicultural Center at (540) 654-1044.

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NOW HIRING

QDD Swim Team Inc. is hiring 1-2 swim coaches to close out the 2004 short course season, coaching high school and developmental swimmers. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursdays, beginning in March, and through the end of the semester. Excellent pay. Experience and local residents preferred. Pool is less than a 10 minute drive from campus. Contact James at x8048.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We have issues.

We know you do too.

Email your opinion letters to
bullet@mwc.edu.

Where Has Honor Gone At MWC?

Questions About What's Happened To The Honor Code And Why Nobody Seems To Care Anymore.

By KATIE TELLER
Viewpoints Editor

Arguably, the most popular part of *The Bullet* is the Police Beat. Amidst reports of intoxicated freshmen, there are always reports about how a wallet or CD player was stolen from the library, or clothing was stolen from the Goolrick.

Recently, I've heard students from a few residence halls complain of their belongings being taken from their rooms.

A few weeks ago, my own

There's an obvious solution, of course, which is to lock your doors and carry your valuable belongings with you at all times.

It's not anything new, but campus theft

brings about a pretty big question: Does anyone care about the honor code anymore?

The honor code is what Mary Washington College's administration holds most sacred. It's what the college flaunts to prospective students. All incoming students have to attend the Honor Convocation at the beginning of the school year.

It's clear that the college cares deeply about honor.

It's not anything new, but campus theft brings about a pretty big question: Does anyone care about the honor code anymore?

Shouldn't students be expected to do the same? Shouldn't someone who comes to a school abide by its rules?

It's annoying for the honest people. The honor code, in theory, means that not only can we leave a bag at the gym or lose a wallet and expect to get it back. But it means more than that we can have a few simple conveniences. It means that we can trust our peers.

When people flagrantly violate standards that they have agreed to live by, it's disheartening. It makes one wonder if anyone really actually cares anymore.

It kind of makes everything the school has told us about honor seem like a big joke. Why did we have to sit through the hours long Honor Convocation if honor means nothing? Why do we have to write "I pledge upon my word..." on every

assignment if we have to worry about someone cheating? It's meaningless.

Recently, four computers were stolen from Willard Hall. Also, a student was robbed on High Street. I only hope that the criminals are not Mary Washington College students, but I would not be a bit surprised if they were, considering some of the things that have gone on this year.

The only proposal I have for this problem is for everyone to just quit lying, cheating, and stealing.

Think twice about your actions. Think how they will affect other people.

Think about how annoying it is to cancel credit cards from a stolen wallet, or how you would feel if you were the person being ripped off.

Or, on a larger scale, think about how you're undermining a system you agreed to live by.

I'm not trying to say that no one here has standards. It's really only a few people, but these few people are the ones who get noticed, whose names appear in the headlines, and who make things worse for everyone.

The Police Beat shouldn't be as long as it is.

Katie Teller is a sophomore

Are MWC Students Really Apathetic?

From APATHY, page 3

February 10th. Drive home for the afternoon if you live close enough - whoever wins could feasibly be your president by next January.

If you don't do anything before then, then at least plan on making an appearance this fall for the presidential election. Plan to get home somehow or apply for your absentee ballot as soon as possible. I don't want to hear any complaining about President Bush, or the war, or the economy, if you can't answer YES to the question: did you bother to vote?

Get it out there that our nation's young adults, and especially not Mary Washington College students, have not become passive at all.

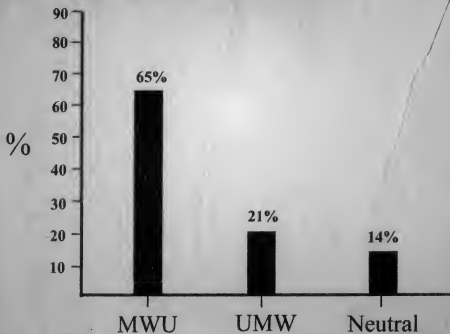
Not a registered voter yet? (Must. Suppress. Anger.) Do it. Now. The choices made by our next president will affect you. It will make a difference in your student loans, the job market, or your health care benefits. Your taxes could be raised, or maybe lowered.

So go ahead: prove me wrong. Get it out there that our nation's young adults, and especially not Mary Washington College students, have not become passive at all, but are educated, concerned, and actively involved in their local community and the world. I dare you.

Gwen Nixon is a senior

New SGA Name Survey Released

The Student Government Association asked 640 students which name they would prefer. Sixty-five percent wanted Mary Washington University, with the University of Mary Washington at 21 percent. Fourteen percent had no preference.



The Weekly Wassup

What to do...Where to go?!

February 5 - February 11

Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

Asian Film Festival IRON LADIES 5:30-8:30 p.m. Chandler 102	Slam Poet: E-Baby 7 p.m. Underground	Cheap Seats Cinema Gothika 7 p.m. Runaway July 10 p.m. Dodd Auditorium \$1	Gospel Extravaganza 4 p.m. Dodd Auditorium Free	Black History Month: Student Perspectives 7 p.m. Combs 237	Poem Readings <i>After the Palace Burns</i> 5 p.m. Combs 139	Lecture "Trompe l'Oeil Painting and the Mimetic Tradition in Aesthetics" 5p.m. Combs 139
Thursday Poems Angela Pitts reads <i>The Iliad</i> 5 p.m. Combs 139	Cheap Seats Cinema Runaway July- 7 p.m. Gothika- 10 p.m. Dodd Auditorium \$1			French Film: GRAIN OF SAND 7:15 p.m. Dodd Auditorium	SGA Office Workshop 5 p.m. Red Room Campus Center	Keynote Speaker Edwidge Danticat 7 p.m. Lee Ballroom

Underground Open Again

By MARY DAVID
Staff Writer

Although the Underground shut down recently because it failed to meet safety regulations, it is now up and running after extensive renovations at the end of the year and beginning of January.

Junior Merideth Munoz, manager of the Underground, said the changes ranged from minor organizational adjustments to some more noticeable changes.

"Reflectors were added to the stairs, the entire sound board was brought down to the floor and new flame-retardant curtains were put up," she said.

According to John Wiltenmuth, associate vice president of facilities services, the overall cost of changes has not yet been determined.

"To my knowledge, no one has tallied all the charges specific to the Underground," he said. "[But] a quick guess on my part [is] costs were several hundreds of dollars plus the time [and] labor of our maintenance staff."

The Underground also acquired a new foosball table and was able to increase its capacity from 100 to 125 people.

Wiltenmuth said the capacity was initially lowered to 100 due to new regulations of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA).

"The NFPA standard was amended in August 2003," he said. "The State Building Code in effect at that time incorporated the NFPA standard, thus limiting occupancy."

According to the fire agency Web site, nfpa.org, "new NFPA 101 requirements call for sprinklers in all new nightclub-type facilities and for existing nightclubs with occupancies exceeding 100 people."

But according to Wiltenmuth, "The state adopted a new building code in October 2003 which does not incorporate the same NFPA standard. The regional fire marshal reviewed the new code and the building plans from the late 70's and determined that the 125 occupancy limit per the approved design of that period could still be allowed."

Some other alterations included moving specific electrical outlets, eliminating the tables and chairs from the second level, taking down the

Christmas lights and getting rid of the flammable lounge chairs on the ground floor.

"I really miss those lounge chairs," said sophomore Whitney Solomon, a regular at the Underground. "A lot of people used to sit there, lie down, do work and just talk. The chairs were in the corner, so it gave the place a really intimate feel. Now some of the usual crowd doesn't come here anymore."

According to Underground employee sophomore

down, so that's why we had to be shut down the last week of school," Munoz said. "The fire marshal hadn't been down there for three years so there were things that we did not know were problems that needed to be taken care of." She said all problems were taken care of during the renovations.

The changes have been met with mixed responses from students.

"I do miss the comfortable chairs they had," sophomore Sara Gossett said. "It's not as

welcoming or as cozy an environment as it used to be. But I think it was nice they added the new foosball table."

Solomon agreed.

"The new foosball table is awesome," Solomon said.

"Before, the handles used to come off during a great play. Now you don't have to worry about that. There were definitely a lot of positives for people who want to perform or bring in people, because the capacity is not as limited. At the same time though, there are regulars that don't come anymore and the atmosphere has changed."

Underground employees also said they had mixed feelings over the



The sign outside the Underground.

Andrew Deci/Bullet

Andrew Spaulding, the biggest difference was the new platform for soundboard equipment.

"They had to make a little platform that sticks out into the main Underground area so that the soundboard and electronics wouldn't block the escape route to the fire door on the side of the building," he said.

According to Underground staff, most of the changes were due to failed inspections conducted by the fire marshal.

"He came by towards the end of November," Brianne Meagher, associate director of student activities and community services, said. "[The Underground] was shut down because of some violations. They were all changes that needed to be done anyway, so we were happy to do them so that our students were in a safe environment."

The Underground began to undergo changes the day after its failed inspection.

"When you don't pass, you have to be shut

renovations.

"It's a lot less comfortable and it's not the snazzy little coffee shop it used to be," Spaulding said. "But it is more orderly. Most of our coffee making stuff behind the counter has been moved so as not to cause a fire hazard and I'd say it's a lot more organized now."

Munoz said she is particularly happy about the increase in capacity.

"We were all worried about the changes at first, but I think it's worked out well," she said. "Even though 25 people may not sound like a lot, that's 25 more people that we don't have to turn away that we did at the beginning of the semester."

Although some people are not happy with the changes, the Underground staff said they hope the new adjustments will bring in more students who have never been to the Underground.

The Underground is open Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Political Science Series Kicks Off

By MARY DAVID
Staff Writer

Snow cancelled school, but it didn't keep students from coming to a political science lecture on elections and their media coverage last Wednesday.

ABC news reporter Jay Korff and Stephen Farnsworth, associate professor of political science at Mary Washington College, held a discussion disclosing some of the media's pitfalls, how the press covers elections and the ways it has changed over the years.

"When you're covering a political race, your deadlines are just bam, bam, bam," Korff said. "You don't even have time to think."

Korff and Farnsworth's presentation was part of the lecture series sponsored by Mary Washington College's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.

Senior Shawn Gremminger, the chapter's vice president, organized the event with the help of the president, senior Mary Warden.

"It was a joint brain child between [Warden] and I," he said. "[Warden] had been talking a lot last semester about what Pi Sigma Alpha could bring to the campus. I was the one who said we should do this lecture series."

Gremminger said his main goal for the series is to enhance student awareness of the election and politics in general.

"I'm hoping [this will] educate the student body," he said. "Hopefully you'll see a lot of political science majors and a lot of [people] who aren't. The information provided is stuff you can't get off CNN."

Farnsworth and Korff reflected on the media's effect on the 2004 New Hampshire primary. Both said they believe the media has a strong influence over voters.

"The coverage made on day one affects polls on day two," Farnsworth said. "TV dominates the process and that gives us a twisted and warped vision of what is going on. The question is whether the media will turn on [Mass. Sen. John F.] Kerry with the ferocity that they did with [former Ver. Gov. Howard] Dean. The bad news [is] for Kerry because he is a front-runner now. He might get some of the negative coverage that Dean was getting."

Kerry won races in both Iowa and New Hampshire over Dean, putting Kerry in the lead, according to The Washington Post.

Farnsworth and Korff both said the public needs to get their news coverage from more than

just one source.

"We're kind of in the menu on local TV news," Korff said. "What frustrates me is when people get all their news from the media. People really need to get as many different perspectives as they can. Unfortunately people only tune into what they want to."

Korff and Farnsworth both spoke about the trend of the media to be more and more clipped. According to Korff, "The most frustrating thing about local news is that time or lack of time dictates a lot of what we do."

Farnsworth said the limited time frame reporters have to work with infringes upon their ability to report news thoroughly and in election coverage, leads them to focus primarily on the details of the race instead of the issues.

"There just isn't enough time to do the story right," Farnsworth said. "There is less and less news time devoted to politics. The vast majority of the coverage in each of these elections is all this coverage of the horse race [and] less coverage of politics."

Korff said some of the problems with media coverage of elections lie with the politicians.

"Politicians do whatever it takes to control and spin what we put out," he said. "We try to control it, but we get manipulated a lot. Even people who are embedded haven't been able to get that great of stories because the politicians and the people who handle them have become so savvy."

Mary Washington College students attended the discussion for various reasons.

Sophomore Sara Simpson said she thought she would benefit from it because she is currently studying international affairs.

"I saw the flier and it looked like an interesting topic," she said. "My attention is usually drawn to anything pertinent to my major."

Junior Sam Kaye said he went out of curiosity.

"I was just interested to see what was going to be discussed," he said. "I wanted to hear what some educated people had to say on the issues."

There was an overwhelmingly positive response from students to the lecture.

"Professor Farnsworth is on sabbatical this year, so a lot of seniors were really excited to see him," Gremminger said.

Sophomore Rebekah Sklepovich said she got a lot out of the program.

"This event gave me a fuller understanding of the often contradictory and conflicted nature of election coverage," she said. "It encouraged me to be more cautious in my analysis and interpretation of political news."

Kaye said he was impressed with both speakers and their scope of knowledge.

"The speakers were both well informed and did a good job addressing the issues and the questions that were asked of them," he said. "I will look more into the details of the elections more than at the 'horse race' they spoke about."

Korff and Farnsworth's lecture was the first of four being held throughout the remainder of the semester.

"We are very excited about the series," Gremminger said. "I've been very impressed by the extent to which these busy and important people have been making time to come speak."

Gremminger said the next lecture will probably be held later this month.



James Trammel/Bullet

ABC news reporter Jay Korff speaks to the college.

Psychology Department Auction

By EMILY CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Psychology department chair Roy Smith had a ceramic duck he wanted to get rid of. So he donated it to the psychology department, which will be holding an auction on Thursday, Feb. 12, in Lee Hall Ballroom at 5 p.m.

Students are encouraged to consider making a donation to get rid of any extra odds and ends they might have in order to benefit two worthy causes.

The event is a cooperative project between the Psi Chi Honor Society and the psychology student representatives. The four representatives have been dealing primarily with publicity and ascertaining everyone involved with the auction.

In addition to compiling the lists of participants, distributing the fliers made by Psi Chi and making sure all solicitors know what to tell participants, the representatives have the duty of ensuring all donations are collected on time. The collection process, according to senior representative Alison Anderson, begins Feb. 9.

The auction will be open to the public and donations are still being solicited. According to Smith, "anything reasonably ethical" will be accepted: some of the items up for auction thus far include baseball tickets, brownies and a mini golf trip.

The students are not in the planning process, however.

"The professors really know what's going on," senior representative Mike Kuchler said.

Senior Maria Cedeno agreed. She said the student representatives have been working on this for a while.

"We've been talking to the faculty since the middle of last semester," Cedeno said.

Both students and staff hope after this year lifts the tradition off the ground, holding the auction annually will be easy.

"It's gone relatively smoothly," Anderson said.

Regarding the event's continuance in later years Anderson said, "It depends who ends up as psych rep and what initiative they have."

Smith said he also hopes to see the auction continue in the future.

"We want to, if we can, continue to do it," Smith said. He urges anyone interested in helping or donating to contact the department representatives.

At this point, relatively few students know about the auction, as it's primarily faculty and staff who have been solicited for donations. Students, however, are welcome to participate. One group of students have already signed up to auction off tax preparation services.

Eighty percent of the auction's funds will benefit the Tophet Bill Memorial Scholarship, which was founded shortly after Dr. J. Christopher "Tophet" Bill passed away on Dec. 3, 2001. Bill was chair of the psychology department for 15 years, from 1983 to 1998, and taught statistics in addition to psychology.

The scholarship, Miriam Liss, Associate Professor of Psychology, said, is for "majors who live under [his] ideals...his love for stats and research methods." She said there were already two scholarship winners. The remaining funds will be given to Hope House.

The department deliberately chose to hold an auction as a tribute to those once held by the biology department.

"Believe it or not there's a tradition of scholarly auctions at Mary Washington," Smith said.

Mary Pinschmidt, who coordinated the biology event, recently died of bacterial meningitis. The auction is a means of resurrecting an old tradition as well as honoring the memories of both Pinschmidt and Bill.

In the past, Pinschmidt's husband served as auctioneer at the biology auctions. This time, Steve Hampton of the psychology department will take on the task. The venue and the auctioneer were secured by Psi Chi.

According to Psi Chi co-president senior Lisa Nuedling, things have not been as difficult as one might think.

"It's something we hope the Psi Chi officers will want to do in the future," she said.

According to Nuedling, Psi Chi will select a charity each year to receive a portion of the funds.

Smith wants all students to view the auction as a fun opportunity.

"We'd like [students] to come and have fun," Smith said. "It's not one big psych experiment and it'd be nice if students felt they were involved in raising money for a student cause."

More information is available on the psychology department Web site.